

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1976

Volume C, Number 28

FM 1-8 005 JTO 000207 1,000
For Philippine Relief



Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, makes his annual report to the board in session

this week. Board President Gene Triggs is seated at left along with the secretary, Dr. Ed Gandy.

Pays Tribute To Odle

Board Adopts Budget, Elects Associate Editor

A record budget of \$8.4 million was adopted by members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board this week, and they also elected Tim Nicholas of the Home Mission Board staff as associate editor of the Baptist Record.

The budget will be recommended to the Mississippi Baptist Convention for action in November. It includes a basic portion of \$8.3 million and an advance section of \$100,000.

This is an increase over the 1976 budget of \$1.1 million.

In other actions the board adopted a design for a corporate seal and participated in a tribute to

Dr. Joe T. Odle, retiring editor of the Baptist Record.

Board members also heard a request for special funds to aid in the beginning of an alcoholism treatment center at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, heard reports from the convention's Education Commission and the Central Hills Baptist Retreat Committee, and previewed an audiovisual presentation concerning the 1976 Margaret Lackey Offering for state missions.

The meeting was opened with devotional thoughts by Dr. John Barnes Jr., pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

The corporate seal was designed by Mrs. Betty Bingham, secretary in the Department of Cooperative Missions.

The \$100,000 advance section of the budget calls for \$80,500 going to Southern Baptist Convention causes. The other \$19,500 would be divided between institutions and agencies of the state convention in the amount of \$12,000 and \$7,500 of a total allocation of \$50,000 to go to the medical center for the alcoholism treatment center. The advance section will not go into effect until the basic budget is met.

Under the basic budget \$2,405,

742 is designated for institutions and agencies, \$2,966,968 for board programs, \$289,770 for administration and promotion, and \$2,807,500 for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Nicholas, the newly elected associate editor of the Baptist Record, was named to replace Don McGregor, present associate editor, who will become the editor upon the retirement Aug. 31 of Dr. Odle. Nicholas is a staff member in the Department of Editorial Services of the Home Mission Board, a position he has held for four years.

The newly elected associate editor is 28 years of age and a journalism graduate of Georgia State University in Atlanta. He is a native of Atlanta and a member of Sylvan Hills Baptist Church there. He is serving as Brotherhood director in his church. He will join the staff of the Baptist Record on Sept. 20.

The tribute to Dr. Odle was discussed on page 2.

Adult Community Education Slated At MC

A new program of adult community enrichment aimed at providing a useful curriculum with convenience of time and location will be initiated by Mississippi College this fall for citizens throughout various sections of the state.

To be called PACE—Programs for Adult Community Education—courses offered will be designed to meet the special interests of adults. The courses will meet on a regular basis for approximately five weeks and will carry no credit.

Dr. James Brewer, newly named assistant to the dean of the Graduate School and coordinator of special education programs, said that PACE will get underway this fall at selected sites in the central Mississippi area. Courses will be taught at Calvary Baptist Church in Jackson and on the Mississippi College campus.

In explaining the program, Dr. Brewer said the community

enrichment courses would be non-credit work although participants would be issued a certificate by Mississippi College on successful completion of the course. Courses will be available in such areas as arts and crafts, hobbies, self-improvement, financial needs, special study such as Spanish for travelers, sports and recreation, religious study and others.

PACE courses will be taught by qualified teachers in convenient locations and at least ten persons must sign up for the course before it will be offered. The cost will be approximately \$15 per course and persons interested in PACE programs should contact Dr. Brewer at the college.

In addition to PACE, the college has also revealed plans to offer a Senior Citizens College. The Seniors' College will be limited to persons 55 years of age or older and will be designed around the interest of the senior citizen.

Courses will be offered during the daylight hours and cover such topics as grandparenthood, travel, swindles and frauds, physical fitness over 55, governmental service.

(Continued on page 2)

Midwestern Seminary Begins Expansion

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here is expanding its classroom facilities to handle increased student enrollment and projected growth, a seminary representative said.

The expansion project, under study by the school's board of trustees and administration for

(Continued on page 2)

Crystal Set Radio Is Harbinger

Communications Career Began Early

By Anne Washburn McWilliams
Once more the slender, teen-aged boy checked the instructions he'd found in Lone Scout Magazine. He grasped the copper wire he was winding around a Quaker Oats box and gave it a final twist. With that, his crystal set radio was finished. His eyes glowed with mounting excitement as he picked up a station in Chicago, another in Pittsburgh, another in Toronto.

In 1923 the radio was a new phenomenon, and few people owned one. The ingenious, brown-haired young man called his neighbors in West Frankfort, Illinois, and they came to listen, in awe. Joe Odle thus showed an early interest in communications. His entire life from then until now has been dedicated to telling the Good News—by the spoken word as a preacher and through the written word as an editor.

For seventeen years and six weeks he has been your Baptist Record editor. This week, he is retiring. As Record readers, you

have sent him your news articles. You have written to him, and he has written to you. You have read his editorials. You have heard him preach in your churches, and you have heard him give the Baptist Record report at the state convention. If you have visited the Baptist Building, you have felt the warmth of his welcoming handshake.

The Baptist Record staff planned this special issue as an expression of our appreciation for Dr. Odle.

We agree that as a boss he has always been thoughtful, patient, courteous, and fair. He is the type of person who politely asks you to do something, instead of telling you that you had better do it, or else. Then after you've done what he asked, he never fails to say thank you.

Personally, I respect and admire him, and am grateful to him for the seventeen happy years that he has been to me friend, counselor, and teacher, as well as boss

and fellow worker.

Not only is he a man of faith, but he is capable of conveying this to others. People have confidence in his prayers. They believe what he says, because he is a man of integrity. I am convinced that what he preaches and what he writes is the essence of many years of walking with the Lord.

In a ministry which has spanned fifty-one years he has become known for his kind and compassionate love for people, his generosity, his thorough knowledge of the Bible and of Baptist doctrines, and his courage to declare and stand by his convictions.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board elected him eighth editor of the Baptist Record in September, 1969. However, he had become interim editor July 15 of that year when W. C. Fields resigned as editor to take a position in Nashville.

In his first official editorial, October 8, 1969, he quoted a tele-

gram once sent him by his friend, Chester Swor: "Put any burden upon me, only sustain me in it; Send me anywhere, only go thou with me; Sever any tie, save that which binds me to thee, O God." He confided, "That poetic prayer rang over and over in my mind when the Convention Board chose me as editor." He continued, "Any man attempting such a tremendous task without God's help would surely fail." He listed some definite "convictions and determinations" concerning his new job and closed by saying, "To this new task I dedicate myself. I trust the prayers of every Mississippi Baptist that I may be able to fill the place in a manner acceptable to God and our people."

Since that time the Baptist Record circulation has grown from 91,500 in 1969 to more than 119,000. The Record has won twelve Awards of Merit from Associated Church Press and Evangelistic Press Association, evidence of the

(Continued on page 3)

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board set aside \$50,000 for disaster relief in the Philippines in the aftermath of a severe earthquake and tidal waves.

Robert N. Nash, chairman of the Philippine Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries), and two other missionaries were surveying damages and said they would report further needs for relief.

"The board does not plan to send supplies or personnel into the islands at this time," according to W. L. (Wimpy) Smith, the agency's assistant consultant for disaster relief. Bryan Moss of the U. S. State Department said he thought Manila and Luzon could probably supply enough emergency resources.

Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the islands were all out of danger and accounted for, Nash reported. No missionaries resided in the immediate disaster areas but some Baptist churches are located there and were expected to report damages.

Destruction in the downtown area of Cotabato City was estimated at 85 percent. The city was isolated because bridges leading out of it were down, according to Moss.

Moss said that he expected death figures to climb. At last report, deaths were above 3,000 with more than 2,000 persons missing. Many of the islands in the Sulu Archipelago were probably badly damaged but contact was not possible with them, he said.

Manila Missionaries OK After Quake, Tidal Wave

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—No missionaries have been injured by the earthquake and subsequent tidal wave in Manila, according to Robert N. Nash, chairman of the Philippines Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

He also said that as far as he knew, no missionaries throughout the islands were injured nor any mission property damaged from the Aug. 17 earthquake that registered 8.0 on the Richter Scale.

W. L. (Wimpy) Smith, assistant consultant for disaster relief for the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, has sent a telegram to Nash, assuring him the board is standing by if assistance is needed.

Bryan Moss of the U.S. State Department told Smith in a telephone conversation that more than 300 deaths had been reported and the toll may reach 2,000 or more. He had no information on American casualties but said that the areas most heavily damaged had generally fewer Americans than in other areas of the Philippines.

Refugees In Guadeloupe Await Volcanic Eruption

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (BP)—For some 76,000 persons evacuated to refuge camps from the south side of Basse Terre Island near here, the wait continued for an expected eruption of the volcano, La Soufriere.

"Already Point-A-Pitre (on the twin Guadeloupean island, Grande

Terre) is feeling the strain of overcrowded conditions," Carol (Mrs. Robert W.) Shehane, Southern Baptist missionary, explained. "But everyone is helping to relieve electrical failures and water and bottled gas shortages."

Southern Baptists, too, are helping. (Continued on page 2)

Dr. Joe T. Odle

Record Editor To Retire

Dr. Joe T. Odle, editor of the Baptist Record since July 15, 1959, will retire from that position on Aug. 31.

The retirement will bring to a close 20 years of service in the Mississippi Baptist Building for Dr. Odle. He had been associate executive secretary for three years before becoming interim editor of the Baptist Record in July of 1959. In September he was elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to the position of editor.

As editor of the Baptist Record he succeeded Dr. W. C. Fields, now the assistant to the executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Bap-

tist Convention and public relations secretary for the committee.

Dr. Odle will be succeeded by Donald T. McGregor, now the associate editor of the Baptist Record.

Though he is closing out his days at the Baptist Building due to the mandatory retirement policy of the Convention Board, Dr. Odle has indicated he does not intend to bring to a close what has been an active ministry. He will continue to preach and teach as the opportunities present themselves, he said. Opportunities have been numerous all through the years.

Before joining the Convention Board staff in 1959 Dr. Odle was

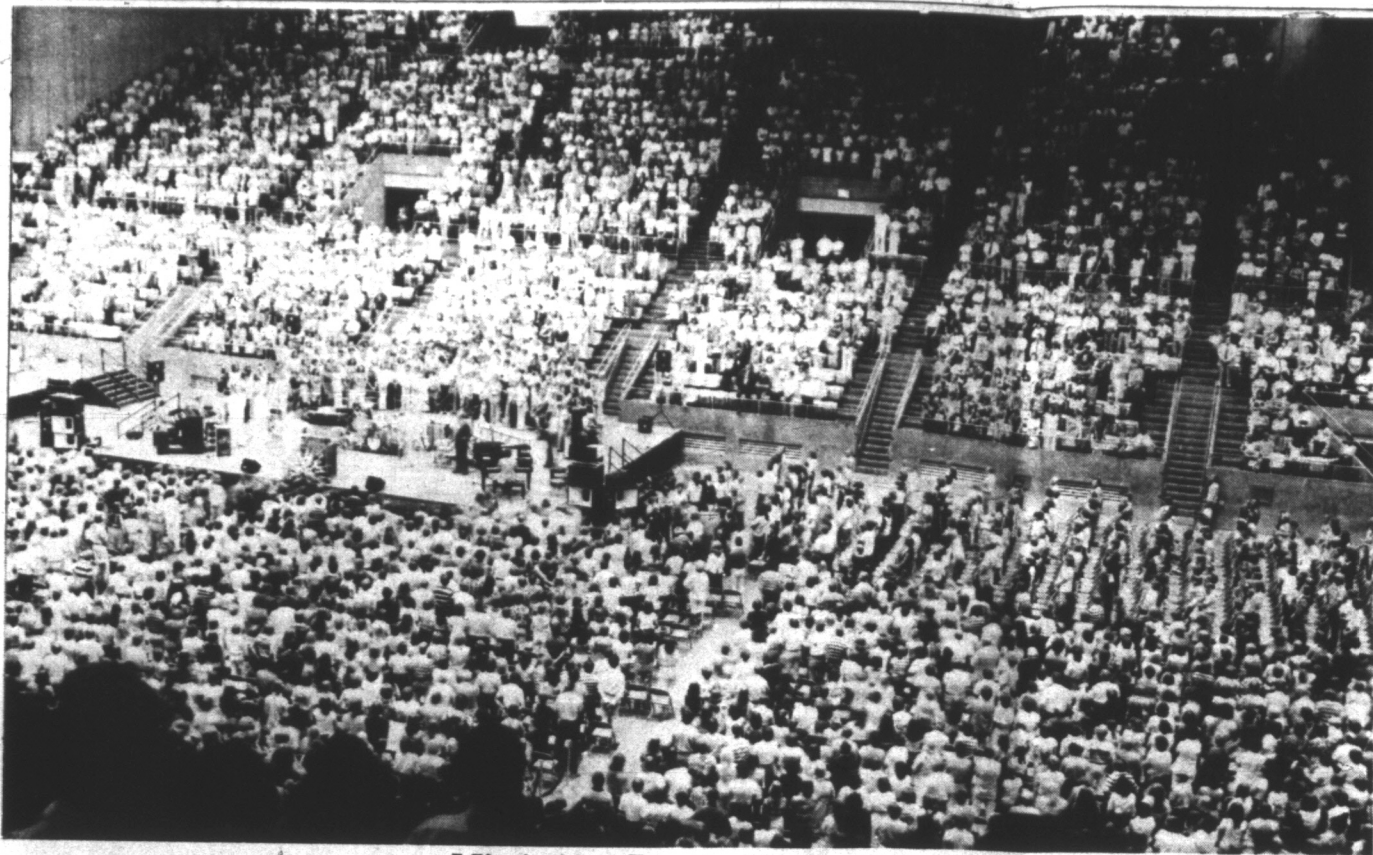
pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, for more than nine years. Before that he had been pastor of First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, for four years.

In 1949 he received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Mississippi College.

Dr. Odle's first full-time pastorate was at East Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., from 1932 to 1943. He had served several part-time churches in Tennessee and Kentucky before that.

He is a native of West Frankfort, Ill., and the son of a Baptist preacher. His father, Harry Odle, died when he was seven years of age. His mother, widowed (Continued on page 2)

DR. JOE T. ODLE



Mississippi Baptist Youth Night

More than 10,000 Baptist young people strained the capacity of the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson last week during Mississippi Baptist Youth Night. The gathering was changed from the Christmas holidays to summer this year, and there was a decided increase in attendance. The young people heard Rev. Jim Henry, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church of Nashville, and Truth, a vocal and instrumental music group from Mobile, Ala. A youth choir selected from

churches over the state was under the direction of J. M. Wood, minister of music at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson. Soloists were Janet Barnes and Rita Wood, both of Jackson. The organist and pianist were Jerry Aultman of New Orleans Seminary and Phillip Fortenberry of William Carey College. Youth Night is sponsored annually by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Larry Salter of the board staff was the steering committee chairman.

Dealing With Conflict

By Clifton Perkins
Director, Department of Church-Minister Relations
(Second in a Series)

When the winds of conflict between pastor and people are blowing, three good words to keep in mind are patience, optimism, and communication. One modern church leader, when faced by conflict in his church said, "Those who believe in God can afford to wait." There is a workable, right solution to every problem. Our job is to find it.

An optimistic outlook will certainly help us find the solution. During the second war a seriously wounded soldier was brought to an aid station. The medics felt he would not live so the chaplain was called. Very gently he told the soldier he might not live and asked if there was anything he could do. Unable to speak, the soldier pointed to his pocket. The chaplain, thinking he might have a letter or picture he wanted, reached into the man's pocket and pulled out a ten dollar bill. He was puzzled, but the soldier pointed to the bill and gasped, "I'll bet you that I don't die."

I like that spirit; it overcomes difficulties. It should be the spirit of pastor and church leaders as they face conflict — optimistic determination to work out their problems to the glory of God.

Believing that the difficulties can be ironed out, God's will and wisdom should be earnestly sought. We seek God's guidance in forming the relationship between pastor and people. Could it be that we forget His Lordship when the relationship becomes troubled? God should be given a seat in the conference room, for He may have something to offer in the way of a solution.

When we pray, we should believe God is going to answer — and we must have patience enough to wait for Him. A fitting symbol of many of us is the polaroid camera — push a button and pull the picture. We want "right now" solutions to our problems, but God does not always operate on our time table. The Bible says, "that one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (II Peter 3:8). Patient, believing prayer is the word.

Ray Henchy tells of a church that was in bitter conflict over its pastor. They wanted to vote, to have a confrontation, but both sides were urged to wait and give God a chance to work. After prayer, both groups decided to wait from three to six months. In less than three months the problem was settled. They learned that no church is ready to vote on disturbing issues until the people have sought and found God's will. In the context of prayer and dependence on God, adjustment of difficulties should be sought. Certainly this calls for communication in a spirit of love and concern. The pastor needs to know the feelings of the people, and vice versa.

Many years ago the chairman of deacons came to a preacher friend of mine and told him there was widespread concern in the church

over his ministry. My friend knew he was not "setting the woods on fire," but he did not realize the situation had deteriorated to that point. He asked the deacon to tell him frankly what the people were concerned about. Kindly and honestly the layman related the feelings of the people as he understood them. The pastor also bared some of the concerns of his heart.

My friend didn't try to defend himself. He thanked the chairman and asked him sincerely to pray for him. He didn't stop with that. Without indicating that he knew of their concern, he asked other members, as he visited and talked with them, to pray for him.

When he did resign two years later to take another position, the people were shocked and genuine-

ly sorry. God does move in "mysterious ways His wonders to perform" — when we give Him a chance.

Sometimes in dealing with conflict it is wise to seek the help and counsel of a trusted neighboring pastor or of leaders in the association. The Department of Church-Minister Relations is always ready to counsel with pastor and church leaders when requested.

However, often such outside help will not be necessary when patience, optimism, and communication, permeated by prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit, are applied to the problem. Wounds heal and new growth begins!

Next Week — When the Relationship Must Be Broken.

Third Sunday School Week Under Way At Ridgecrest

RIDGECREST, N. C. — An unprecedented third Sunday School Leadership Conference is being conducted Aug. 28-Sept. 2 here at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Sponsored by the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Third Sunday School Board, the week-long conference follows two similar conferences held earlier in the summer that attracted a total of about 5,000 church leaders.

A special workshop for workers with the mentally retarded and a conference on bus outreach will be held simultaneously during the week.

The workshop will be directed by Mrs. Doris Monroe, a consultant in the general officers section

of the Sunday School department at the board. The bus outreach conference, which will cover all phases of a bus ministry, will be directed by D. Lewis White, consultant in the extension activities section of the department.

The Sunday School conference is designed for church workers and leaders in every area, and informative sessions have been planned for all age groups.

The meeting follows the annual Student Conference, which was Aug. 21-27. The Conference for Single Adults, Sept. 3-6, will close the summer season at Ridgecrest, a year-round religious retreat owned and operated by the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Weekend Retreats Slated

Four weekend retreats especially for junior high teens are scheduled for this fall.

The theme for each of the meetings, as revealed by Marilyn Hopkins, State Teens Director, will be "Discovery . . . God's Call." The theme of retreat is designed to provide opportunities for junior high teens (grades 7-9) to learn about missions vocations — to discover just what they have to offer in missionary service. Possible missions vocations, from student missions to career missions, will be explored and discussed, and a display of missions vocations will be featured.

The dates for the meetings are as follows: September 25, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain; October 2, Mississippi College,

One blessing in being poor, honest and hard-working is that nobody envies you.

A great many people don't care what happens so long as it doesn't happen to them.

No one knows of your honesty unless you give out some samples.

An open mind is one where ideas come out as fast as they go in.

Clinton; October 23, Clarke College, Newton; October 30, William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

Registration at each of the meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. and cost for the day will be \$3.00. Each day's program will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

Midwestern Seminary Begins Expansion

(Continued from page 1)
several months, reportedly will increase available classroom space by nearly 30 percent by Dec. 1, 1976.

Major emphasis of the expansion project is the modification of an existing classroom building. Plans call for developing and enclosing a breezeway area between the faculty building and the classroom-student center complex plus redesigning the existing interior layout.

Besides adding classroom space, the modification will provide area for better faculty office facilities and a bigger and better Baptist Book Store.

This week's issue of the Baptist Record, the last under the editorship of Dr. Joe T. Odle, was taken over to a great extent by staff members in seeking to pay adequate tribute to him in his last issue.
—Don McGregor

Church Tax Status Said Threatened By Private Schools

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP) — Southern Baptist churches operating private schools may be in danger of losing their non-profit tax status, a Southern Baptist agency executive declared here.

Individual church members may also come under scrutiny for their tax deductible gifts to those churches, said John W. Baker, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, during a conference on "Moral Issues in the '76 Elections" sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Baker, who directs research services for the Washington, D. C.-based Baptist committee, told the conferees: "A tax deduction may not be taken on a person's income tax for any contribution to a church or other non-profit organization if the contributor receives any kind of services in return — namely services provided by a private school."

"For example," explained Baker, "if persons make 'gifts' to a church and that money goes to pay tuition or fees for a child in that church's private school program, a bona fide gift has not been made and a tax deduction cannot be taken. To do so constitutes fraud for which the persons will be prosecuted when this fraud is discovered."

Baker also warned that any church which falsely certifies "as contributions those payments for services is transgressing the law and may be fined and its entire tax status examined."

"Whoever knowingly makes the certification—the minister or other church officer—has committed a felony and will have to face the law," Baker revealed.

Another conference speaker, C. Welton Gaddy, director of Christian Citizenship development for the Christian Life Commission, also addressed himself to the subject of private school education.

Gaddy said he felt that much private education today is a kind of "ghetto-like" education. "Everyone in the classroom comes from the same religious, cultural, and economic sector of society. Thus students do not learn to get along with people who are different."

He called upon Southern Baptists to support quality education in public schools and said that this type of education must include instruction in the basics, value orientation, discipline, and a nurture of human relationships.

"God's financial plan for His church is simple: He will entrust to us as much as we can be trusted to put into circulation for His glory, so long as our goal is reaching as many for Christ as possible in the shortest length of time." — Jess Moody

Board Adopts Budget, Elects Associate Editor

(Continued from page 1)
rected by Dr. Barnes, chairman of the personnel committee for the board. In his remarks he spoke of Dr. Odle's 20 years as a Convention Board staff member, 17 as editor of the Baptist Record.

Dr. Odle responded that they had been 20 wonderful years. "It was very difficult to leave the pastorate," he said, "but the Lord directed the change, and it has been one of the most wonderful periods of my life."

"It is with mixed emotions," he declared, "that I turn the task over to my successor."

Gene Triggs, president of the Convention Board, said, "We will miss you. We appreciate what you've done, and we know Mississippi Baptists join in this appreciation."

The alcoholism treatment center is scheduled to begin Sept. 1. They need some "start up" money, according to Executive Secretary-treasurer Earl Kelly. As it gets into operation the center is expected to be able to take care of its own expenses.

A team from Hazelton, Minn., is to be on hand to aid in the inauguration of the center in Jackson. The nearest such facility to Jackson is in Dallas.

Dr. Joe Tuten, chairman of the Education Commission, reported that enrollment in October in four-year programs at the four Mississippi Baptist colleges was 3,185. In addition there were 1,633 graduate students at Mississippi College and William Carey College and 377 special students at all four colleges for a total enrollment of 4,973.

Dr. Levon Moore, chairman of the Central Hills Baptist Retreat committee, presented a team of

architects who reported on progress in the development of the 360-acre facility near Kosciusko.

Dr. Kelly reported on results of the youth night service last week in Jackson. There were nine professions of faith, 60 rededications, four who made christian life commitments, and one commitment to a church-related vocation.

In his annual report Dr. Kelly pointed out that this year's budget is 11.1 per cent ahead of the same period last year. The total receipts through Monday had been \$4,720,046.

He reported that 475 churches had viewed the movie, "The Whale that Came to Mississippi," and 91 had seen "Missions, A New Day in Mississippi." He spoke of the renovation of the student center at Mississippi University for Women and of the new centers at Northeast Junior College and at Copiah-Lincoln Junior College. A new center is being planned for Delta State University, he said. He mentioned the continued program of full employment of the BSU directors at junior colleges, the pastor dialog program in effect this year across the state with members of the board staff, and the 40 new churches that have been constituted in the past two years.

He also made reference to the new Department of Church Administration scheduled to come into being on Jan. 1. Rev. Leon Emery is to be the director.

Triggs appointed a five-member committee on board organization. The members are

The members are Reese Kyzar, the chairman, of Rolling Fork; Raymond Lloyd of Starkville, Mrs. Larry Otis of Tupelo; Ivor Clark of Macon; and Charles Gilbert of Waynesboro.

Dr. Joe T. Odle, Record Editor, To Retire

(Continued from page 1)
for the second time, is now Mrs. Winona Ice and lives in Jackson.

Mrs. Odle is the daughter of a Baptist preacher. He was L. R. Riley of Kentucky, who died in 1975. Mrs. Riley lives in Jackson. Mabel Riley and Joe Odle met while both were students at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Dr. Odle also attended Southern Seminary.

The Odles' daughter, Sarah, is Mrs. Roland Maddox of Memphis. There are two grandchildren, Melanie and Alan. A son, Joe Thomas, died while a ministerial student at Mississippi College.

Dr. Odle has been listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the South and Southwest. His published books are: It's a Great Life, Don't Miss It, Is Christ Coming Soon, Why I Am a Baptist, and The Coming of the King. His Church Members' Handbook is nearing two million in publication. Editions have been published in two foreign languages and portions of the book translated in others.

He has been named a Kentucky Colonel and has received awards for his editorials, notably "Smoke Over Mississippi." Under his editorship the Baptist Record has also received a number of awards.

He has been vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and president of the Southern Baptist Press Association. He has served on the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. He is a member of Associated Church Press and Evangelical Press Association. He has been a member of Kiwanis, Lions, Civitan, and Rotary clubs.

Refugees In Guadeloupe Await Volcanic Eruption

(Continued from page 1)
ing by sending 600 tents, 1,000 blankets, and 1,000 pounds of meat to be distributed to the refugees. The government evacuation plan assigned those in the danger zone to certain refugee camps in the country.

The Shehanes are currently the only Southern Baptist missionaries in Guadeloupe, assigned to Pointe-A-Pitre. However, the L. Wayne Fredericks on vacation in San Juan, Puerto Rico, are attempting to return to assist in this time of "alert." The Alvin L. Garys are in the states on furlough.

On March 24, 1976, the Guadeloupean volcano whose summit reaches 4,800 feet in height, became active. Specialists were sent from Paris to evaluate the danger of eruption, according to Mrs. Shehane. They judged the situation serious, adding that some 70,000 Guadeloupeans were in danger.

According to Mrs. Shehane, the mountain has cracked in three places emitting old magma, showers of water, and sulfur gases. On July 9 many people of Matouba, St. Claude and surrounding cities evacuated to the refugee centers assigned them, returning only to work and care for their cattle and other animals.

At the time of the complete evacuation on Aug. 14-15, many were still living in the centers, Mrs. Shehane said. "No one will be on the south side of Basse Terre Island until the expected eruption is completed, and the government tells the people they may return," she said.

Robert Shehane has been in contact with W. L. (Wimpy) Smith, the board's assistant disaster relief coordinator, and W. Eugene Grubbs, disaster relief coordinator, concerning disaster relief plans for the country.



Joe Odle, at age-one in West Frankfort, Illinois.



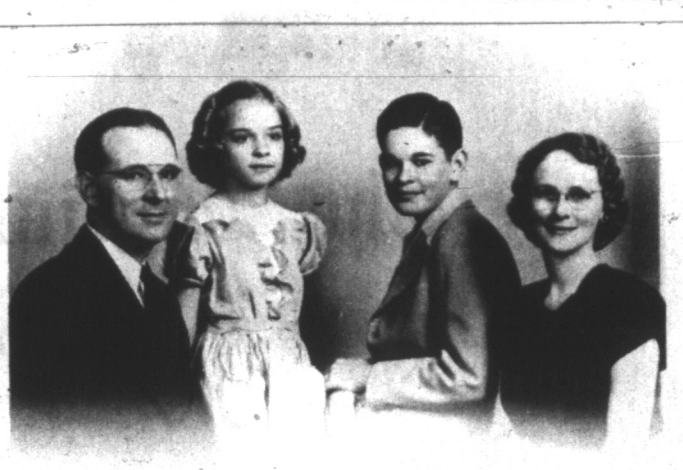
Age two or three...



Age six.



High school days...



Joe, Sarah, Joe Thomas and Mabel Odle during the 1943-47 pastorate at First Church, Crystal Springs.



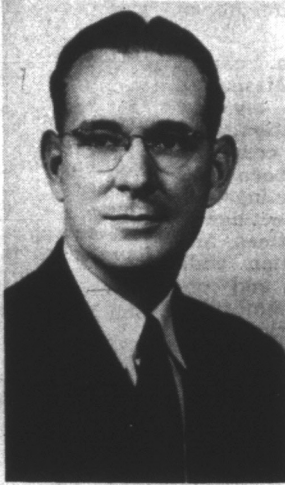
Joe Odle walked across the frozen Tennessee River at Paducah, Ky. on January 28, 1940.



Dr. Odle and his children, Sarah and Joe Thomas, at Rabbit Ears Pass, Colorado, June, 1951.



Joe Thomas Odle at age 18



Pastor at Gulfport: 1947-1956



Congregation at a revival service First Church, Gulfport, 1953, while Odle was pastor there. Eddie Martin was evangelist.

Child, Husband, Father, Pastor

Dr. Odle's Communications Career Began Early

(Continued from page 1)

esteem that editors of other denominations have for Dr. Odle.

His editorials, read worldwide, have received both glowing praise and stinging criticism.

An editorial on the inspiration and authority of the Bible won Honorable Mention from Associated Church Press. His "Smoke Over Mississippi" won first place with both ACP and EPA for "demonstration of editorial courage through a crusade launched by a single editorial." It was the spark that set off the organization of the Committee of Concern which led in the rebuilding of black Baptist churches burned in Mississippi during days of racial disturbance.

One of his first editorials was about the Cooperative Program, a subject to which he would often return. In fact, one critic of Southern Baptists accused him of being a compromiser, saying "Ode believes the Bible, but he believes

in the Cooperative Program more."

Dr. Odle says, "If I should be asked to characterize my editorial policy, it would be theological conservatism, full support of the denomination, and Christ-centered witness. I am a Bible believer, without a single question mark. I am a Baptist, unashamed. I am solidly a Southern Baptist."

When he was fourteen, he entered in his Scout diary his experience during a revival at Second Baptist Church, Frankfort Heights: "I gave my heart to Jesus a year ago tonight." The pastor, Paul Smith, had been preaching, and had baptized him in Pond Creek three miles north of town.

His boyhood hero was this young pastor, Paul Smith. "No man in my life meant more to me," he later said. "I found a father love in him. Upstairs in his house he had his study. Among his books were bound copies of Spurgeon magazines and other treasured volumes. I spent many happy

hours in that library, and perhaps developed my love for books there. I became the baby sitter for the Smiths, but loved the books more than the children!"

As the searching mind of the teen-ager was like a sponge, always able to absorb more knowledge, so the mind of the man has continued to expand. He can answer a question on practically any subject, or tell you exactly where to look to find the answer. His library contains hundreds of volumes, most of them well-worn.

His priceless collection of rare books, his intriguing assortment of ancient typewriters, and other unusual mementoes in his office reveal something of the width and variety of his interests. For instance, a bean pot from Israel that dates back to the sixth century, B. C., is a clue to his interest in history. A carved water buffalo is a reminder of a preaching mission to the Philippines, and his interest in world missions. A fragment of glass is from the baptistry of the old fire-damaged sanctuary at First Church, Gulfport, where he baptized more than 800 persons. A picture of him with other members of the Steering Committee was made during the Billy Graham Crusade in Jackson. These show his interest in evangelism.

When he was six years old, you'd never have guessed he'd be one who would like to study. Time came for him to start to school, but he cried because he didn't want to go. His mother whipped him, and took him to school for a month but he continued to cry. Finally she took him home and said, "Young man, just stay home! If you never learn a thing, it's all right with me!" The next year, he was ready for school, and by the second week he had been promoted to the third reader. That year, too, he welcomed a baby sister, Jeanne.

Joe Odle was born August 19, 1906, in a community near West Frankfort, Illinois. He was a direct descendant of one of the Minutemen who fought in the American Revolution. His mother was the former Winona Dillon. His father, Harry Odle, was a Baptist preacher.

When Joe was almost nine, his father died, June 3, 1917, at the age of 32. After his father's death, he and his mother and sister lived for several months in Santa Rosa, California, with his Uncle Fred, while his mother attended business college. Later, back in Illinois, they returned to West Frankfort. In 1919 his mother married Jack Lee, a cousin of his father.

Fascination for the pencil had affected Joe early. When he was three he wrote all over the white walls of his mother's porch! During his teen years he had a magazine route, and a paper route. During these years, too, he made the "Quaker Oats box" radio. As a paper boy for the Daily American, he watched the press run and dreamed of being a newspaper-

man. But God had other plans for him, at least for a while.

At a YMCA Boys' Conference at Carbondale, Illinois, he heard a speaker talk about God's call for men's lives, and knew God was calling him to preach. In March, 1924, when he was 15, he preached his first sermon on the text, Ephesians 2:8. The sermon ended in eight minutes. The next summer a mission at Orient, five miles away, called him as pastor. He was ordained September 6, 1925, two weeks after his 17th birthday.

After graduation from Frankfort Community High School in 1926, he rode to California in a touring car with his Sunday school teacher, and worked all summer in a fruit cannery. He saved \$110, but it took \$89.69 to buy a ticket home on the train.

His pastor at that time, T. F. Lowrey, urged him to enroll in a Southern Baptist college, and the nearest was at Union University, Jackson, Tennessee. Odle chose it. There he was to get a closer look at Baptist affairs, and to meet his future wife.

Involved in BSU work, he decided to go to the first southwide Baptist Student Conference, in Birmingham in the fall of 1926, his freshman year. On the way to the convention Lewis Ferrell (later pastor in Mississippi) and John Hall Jones, fellow students, told him that Mabel Riley was the girl for him. She was a preacher's daughter from Tennessee.

When he got back to school he was too timid to ask Mabel for a date until one day he heard the college president make a chapel talk on going after what you want. Right-away he asked her to go to a play with him the next week. That was the beginning of their courtship.

At the end of Joe's sophomore year, his professor, G. M. Savage, invited him to pastor his three quarter-time churches in Mississippi for the summer. Thus, his first experiences as pastor in Mississippi were at Wheeler Grove, Osborne Creek, and Rienzi.

When he was a junior he was called as pastor at Galloway, a small village between Jackson, Tennessee, and Memphis. He also preached at Rossville, east of Memphis on the Southern Railway, once a month, for a salary of \$35 a month. One Sunday night the Rossville treasurer, a practical joker, paid him with 700 nickels.

In the spring of 1929 he attended his first Southern Baptist Convention, at Memphis. "As I heard and saw men like Truett," he recalls, "Scarborough, Sampey, Lee and others, I knew that these were my kind of Baptists." During the last seventeen years as editor, he has become a familiar figure at annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention. He has become well known across the nation. Indeed, he is known around the world. He has preached

in the Philippines, in the Bahamas, in Alaska, in Italy, and has visited with Baptists in Rio and Tokyo, Jerusalem, and Hong Kong.

At Union University, Mabel graduated a year earlier than he and went to teach school in Kentucky where her father, L. R. Riley, was the pastor of Lone Oak. After Joe graduated with a major in history, he accepted the pastorate of Barlow and Bandana, two half-time churches in Kentucky.

The two were married in a ceremony at Mabel's home, performed by her father. The groom had just bought a new Chevrolet, for \$630. The couple left in it for Big Spring State Park, in Missouri's Ozark hills.

For a year they lived at Lone Oak, and both taught school, his only year of teaching. The next year she taught part time, but they had moved to Barlow, where he was pastor.

In June, 1932, as the depression was deepening, Odle had emergency surgery, for appendicitis. While in the hospital he accepted a call to East Church, Paducah, Kentucky. The depression had hit the church, too, and they were in serious debt, so they called him at a salary of \$20 a week, "if that much came in." Yet, under their new pastor's leadership, the church became a leader in evangelism among the churches of West Kentucky, and there came a day in 1940 when they had paid every penny of their debts.

One of the most memorable things about the Odles' stay in Paducah was the flood of 1937, when 88 per cent of the city was under water. Water reached nine feet in the church basement and five feet, nine inches in the pastor's home. Their furniture fell apart. With an axe, Odle chopped up the piano so he could get it out the door. They managed to save the solid oak breakfast table, the oil stove, and most of his precious library, which was upstairs.

In 1934 he enrolled at Southern Seminary, riding back and forth on the train. The next winter, the Odles' first child was born, a son they called Joe Thomas. A few years later, while they were still in Paducah, their daughter, Sarah, was born.

"West Kentucky taught me why I was a Baptist," he reflects. "Doctrinal emphasis was very strong in the area." His late father-in-law, Brother Riley, also taught him much about Baptist doctrine. In the eleven years at Paducah, he first came into contact with men who were pre-millennial in their view of Bible prophecy and interpretation. Since that time he has specialized in the study of prophecy and has written several books on it. Often he leads conferences on prophecy.

While in Paducah he saw the need for a Church Members' Handbook, and printed a small mimeographed edition for his church. This book was later ac-

cepted by the Sunday School Board, and published by Broadman Press. In some recent years it has sold at the rate of nearly 75,000 per year, and is now at the 1,970,000 mark. It has been published in Chinese and Spanish, and portions of it have been translated into Portuguese and Arabic.

In March, 1943, he said yes when a call came from First Church, Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Soon after he moved there to succeed A. B. Pierce as pastor, he had a talk with Leo Eddleman. Eddleman told him: "They treat a preacher like a king in Mississippi!"

In the ensuing 47 months, the budget at Crystal Springs grew from \$14,000 to \$45,000. During that time the church gave \$47,000 through the Cooperative Program and placed a like amount in the building fund. (In 1947 the church added a "baby building," one of the first in the state.)

When First Church, Gulfport, called Odle in January, 1947, he found it very hard to make a decision, for, as predicted, he and Mabel were very happy at Crystal Springs. Yet he remembered the words of Vance Havner, "If you know the man who holds the keys, you do not have to know the key man." In this decision as in others, he sought the guidance of The Man who held the keys.

From the beginning of his pastorate at Gulfport the third Sunday in February, 1947, for the next 185 Sundays there were additions every Sunday he was in the pulpit. Four consecutive revivals within 3 1/2 years (1950-53) brought astonishing results: Dr. R. G. Lee, evangelist 94 additions; Leroy Smith, evangelist, 103 additions; C. Y. Dossey, evangelist, 156 additions; Eddie Martin, evangelist, 104 additions, or a total of 455. During that time the church was having additions almost every Sunday.

Dr. Odle (in 1940 Mississippi College had awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree) led in the renovation of the sanctuary, and in the construction of two educational buildings. Preliminary planning was done for the new sanctuary which was built a few years later. In his nine and one-half years at Gulfport there were more than 2950 additions to the church, over 800 for baptism. By 1953 the Sunday School enrollment was 1600. Average Sunday School attendance grew from 350 in 1947 to 921 in 1955. Five new churches were started as missions of First Gulfport.

In 1950 the Odle family traveled together to the Baptist World Alliance in Cleveland, and to Niagara Falls. The following year they drove to San Francisco to the Southern Baptist Convention.

While they lived in Gulfport in a two-story house facing the sea, the children were in their teen years, and finished high school. Brilliant young Joe Thomas en-

(Continued On Page 5)



Joe and Mabel Odle, in the yard of their home in Jackson, at 1322 Robert Drive a few years after he became editor.



Dr. Odle with his daughter, Sarah, son-in-law Roland Maddox, and grandchildren Melanie and Alan. The Maddox family lives in Memphis.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

EDITORIAL

"30"

In the journalistic world the symbol "30" means the end of the story. This is "30" for this editorial adventure.

Seventeen years ago in mid-July I became interim-editor of the Baptist Record, and on the following October 1, became the editor. Since then it has been my privilege to edit more than 850 issues of the paper. More than 1600 editorials have been written. This is the last one.

Except for some work on next February's 100th anniversary issue, which Mr. McGregor graciously has invited me to do, this is the last full week of my official relationship with the paper. My retirement comes on September 1.

These have been wonderful years for me, and I am grateful to God and to Mississippi Baptists for allowing me to have them. They always will be remembered as one of the happiest periods of my life.

I followed in the footsteps of a distinguished line of editors. When I look back upon the work of Gambrell, Hackett, Searcy, Bailey, Lipsey, Goodrich and Fields, I realize that I have walked in the steps of some giants, men who left a mighty imprint on Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist life. I am humbly grateful that God allowed me to follow in their train.

When the editorial responsibility was placed upon me, I found some definite goals and purposes shaping themselves in my mind. I wanted the paper to glorify God and to exalt the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I wanted it to be an instrument for proclaiming the gospel and for the upbuilding of New Testament churches. I determined to support and promote the whole program of Mississippi Baptists and Southern Baptists. I set myself to be firm in my position, but fair in presentation, of all issues which might arise. Unapologetically I would be Baptist, and unashamedly Southern Baptist, but always there would be love and respect for those of other Christian groups.

I have tried diligently to follow those guidelines, and others which developed. Wherein I have failed or fallen short, I am sorry, and I simply pray that despite these failures, the paper has been used to glorify our Lord, and to build the work of the denomination and the churches.

The editor's chair gives a man many contacts and privileges. Attendance at meetings and conferences, fellowship with pastors and leaders, and the coming to his desk of a continuous flow of information through news material, periodicals, letters and books, gives him understanding of events in the spiritual realm that few have. With this comes the responsibility of proper-

ly reporting and interpreting to his readers, the wealth of information he receives.

During these seventeen years I have attended every Mississippi Baptist state convention, every Southern Baptist convention, and all but one Baptist World congress. In addition there have been SBC Executive Committee meetings, occasional attendance at meetings of other Boards and committees, and numerous other convention wide and nation wide meetings and conferences, as well as innumerable meetings in the state. During these years I have been privileged to make six overseas trips, including preaching missions in two countries, visits to mission work in 20 lands, and four visits to the Holy Land.

All of this has given a broad understanding of the whole Baptist program in the state and in the nation and world, as well as knowledge of the work of other groups. Earnestly, I have sought to interpret to our readers the whole program as I saw it.

During these 17 years I have worked under the leadership of three Executive Secretaries-Treasurers, Drs. Quarles, Hudgins and Kelly. Each of these men has been a close personal friend and associate. All of them have given the strongest possible support to the paper and its staff. No editor could have asked for greater cooperation or wider freedom in his work.

Through the years I have had the privilege of working with as fine staff associates as any editor ever had. I think of Joe Abrams, the late Jimmy Lane, Mrs. Eunice J. Campbell, and Bill Duncan, all of whom served in the past. I also think of those who are still here, Don McGregor, who will succeed me as editor, Anne McWilliams and Bill Sellers. Then I must include those who have served as secretaries in the editorial office, a number of fine young women, represented by the present two, Miss Evelyn Keyes and Mrs. Florence Larrimore. Then I must include those who serve in the circulation-advertising department, under the direction of Mr. Sellers. At the present time these are Mrs. Ina McFall and Mrs. Nell Vaughn. Mrs. Betty (Williams) Roberts, also has been serving there, and has just resigned to go to New Orleans seminary with her husband. Without such associates there could have been no Baptist Record. I am grateful to each of them for the part they have had and are having in our work, and for the contribution they have made to my own life.

There is gratitude in my heart, too, for the support that Mississippi Baptists have given to the Record,

and to me as editor, through these years. It has been a privilege to come into your homes each week through the pages of the paper, and to know so many of you personally as I have visited in your churches, or met you in denominational meetings. I count as very dear the host of friends the Record has made for me, and I shall ever cherish the memory of all of you. Thank you for the support and prayers you have given me.

I commend to you my successor, Don McGregor. I could not wish for a finer, better trained, more trusted leader to fill my place. God prepared him for this position through years of service in the largest of the Southern Baptist state papers, The Baptist Standard of Texas, where he was an associate for 16 years. This was followed by two years as editor of the California Southern Baptist, and then one year publishing small town weeklies in Texas. It was in this latter place that we found him and invited him to become an associate with the Record. Already (in the May 20 issue) we have paid tribute to Don as the editor elect, and pointed out the way that God had prepared him for his new ministry. Now we turn the editorial pen (and typewriter) over to him, with a wish and a prayer for God's richest blessings to be upon him. May he have as happy a time at the helm of the Record as I have had.

Retirement time has come, but it is just retirement from the position as editor of the Record. I expect to continue to be busy at other tasks in the Lord's vineyard, as He directs or leads.

I shall try to relax a little more, play a little more, study more and pray more.

There will be time to do more things for, and with, Mabel, who has been my beloved companion and constant helper through all of the years of ministry God has given me. Perhaps we now can do some of the things together that we have not been able to do in the past.

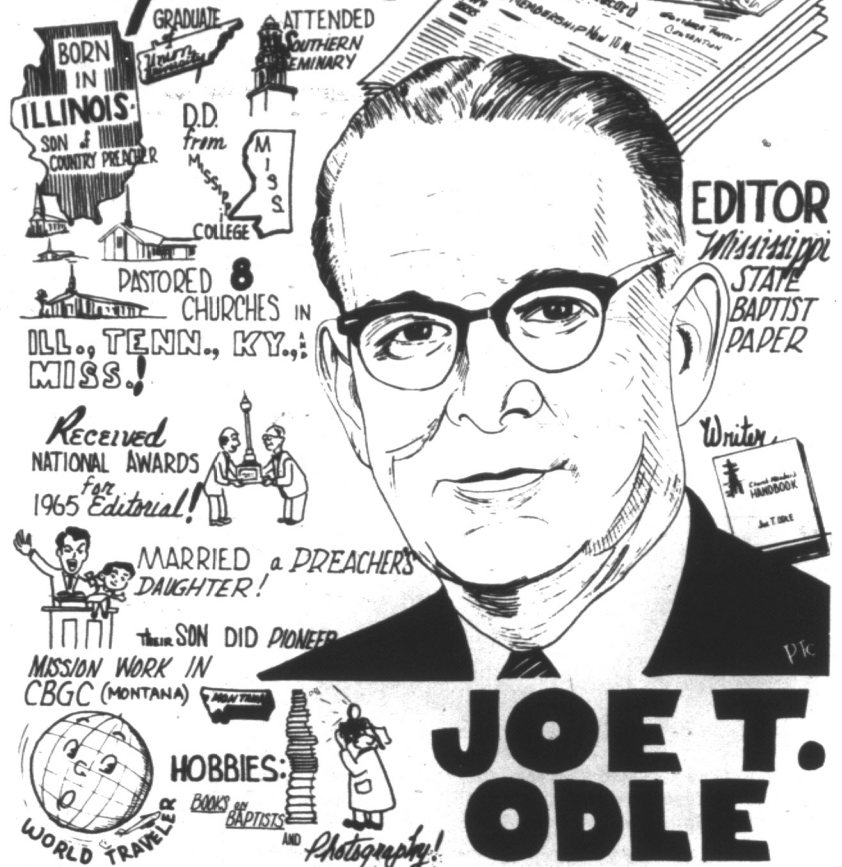
Continue to write a bit? Yes; I expect to do that. There will be the work on the anniversary issue of the Record, already mentioned above, and there are some ideas for other books, which I hope will develop.

Whatever I am doing, I shall always have the Baptist Record in my heart, and you can be sure that I will be praying for those who produce it, and those who read it, as long as God gives me breath.

A sincere thank you to all of you who have done so much to make these such happy years for me!

With that, I can only say, "30"

The RECORD Speaks



THE BAPTIST FORUM

Corrections In Liberty Bell Travel Story

Dear Mr. Editor:

I have just completed reading your account of Liberty Bell returning from a 50,000 mile journey in the Baptist Record dated July 15, 1976.

In the interest of accurate reporting, I would like to call your attention to two or three minor errors that exist in this article. You stated that Mr. McRoberts was away from home practically all the time and that he made the trips alone except for the first ones to Independence Hall, the White House and sites of Baptist historic interests on the way to Miami.

The trip to the Independence Hall was arranged from Maryland and the truck was driven by Mr. Lee Cheek of this area. When the Bell went to the White House, it was my privilege to drive the truck and be present at the reception that was held at the White House. Mr. McRoberts then picked the truck up several days later and proceeded south on the trip to Miami.

The article stated that during the time that the Convention had the truck Ford Motor Company furnished them, and the Convention added air conditioning. I believe we should set the records straight. Ford Motor Company was extremely generous in building the truck and included air conditioning as well as power steering and automatic transmission and many other options when the truck was sent through to me originally.

The use of this truck was arranged for jointly by Mr. Hunter Riggins, a Ford dealer at Piquoson, Virginia, and myself, also a Ford dealer. Mr. Ben Bidwell's administrative assistant in Dearborn did the design for the paint and drew up the specifications for the truck to accommodate the Bell as it had been described to him.

One other minor correction. The Bell was not a two ton bell but the bell was about a two thousand pound bell.

I am sure you are interested in these items being correct.

We appreciate the opportunity to have had a small part in this project and wish you the best in Mississippi as you labor for the Lord.

Ralph D. Walls
Plaza Ford
1701 Bel Air Road
Bel Air, Maryland

EDITOR'S NOTE: The BR article was in error in its report concerning the air conditioning. The weight of the bell as reported included the heavy steel frame which the convention had built to replace the rotted wood of the original. Dr. W. O. Vaught of Little Rock, Ark., chairman of the Bell Committee wrote us "If it had not been for Ralph Walls and Hunter Riggins, these two fine Ford dealers, who were members of the Foreign Mission Board, we would never have gotten the Ford truck. They certainly went more than the second mile in helping us. The Ford Motor Company not only furnished the truck, but put air conditioning on it, painted it, put the tag on it, insured it, and did everything possible to make it the finest truck available for this kind of work." We regret that the Baptist Record did not make all of this clear in the story.)

About Hospital Visitation

Editor:

In response to an article about ministering to the sick, the pastor reports that he has an assistant who "twice a week

goes to one of the two hospitals in Hattiesburg."

It is not unusual for my pastor to visit both hospitals twice a day! He is willing to go at any time he is called by members of his own congregation or others.

The deacons and church members visit also, but he feels that this responsibility belongs first to him. Most church members in need desire spiritual help first of all from the Shepherd of the Flock. I believe the pastor is to lead out first, and others are to follow his example.

It is very sad that pastors today are becoming few in number that feel they should visit the sick.

Darryl Shelton
Hattiesburg, MS.

Montanan Grateful For Car Fund From Mississippi

Dear Dr. Odle:

You will recall that several months ago the Baptist Record printed a letter from Mrs. Doug Branham concerning my need of an automobile. At that time, my car had been in the shop for an extended length of time waiting for repairs, and I was using a car borrowed from my pastor. After several delays and a repair bill of \$1,028.21, my car was back in service, but only temporarily. The next few trips out of town more engine trouble developed with more delays and resulting bills of \$638.86. As soon as feasible after this experience, I traded for a 1976 Cutlass.

After the letter appeared in the Baptist Record, I received gifts directly from two individuals and one church in Mississippi. These were applied on the repair bills and acknowledged personally. Rev. James Watts, pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church near Brookhaven, opened a car fund in a Brookhaven Bank and asked church groups to contribute. I have received from Bro. Watts a check for \$1,185.55. I will not attempt to write each church and individual contributor for lack of proper addresses, but would like to take this means of expressing our deep appreciation for this gift.

My travel in the eastern portion of Montana covers 73,569 square miles, 25,853 miles more than in the entire state of Mississippi. Keeping in touch with my pastors, churches and missions, and attending meetings in the three associations, amounts to approximately 5,500 miles per month. So a dependable car is a necessity.

Thank you, dear friends, for this provision toward Home Missions in Montana.

W. J. Hughes
Director of Missions, Montana East
2619 Cook Avenue
Billings, Montana 59102

The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Miss. 39201

Joe T. Odle Editor
Don McGregor Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate
William H. Sellers Bus. Manager
Official Journal of the
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
CONVENTION BOARD
Earl Kelly
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
The Baptist Building
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205
Baptist Record Advisory Committee: J. B. Fowler, McComb; Vance Dyess, Pearl; James Carr, Jackson; Ferrell Cork, Aberdeen; Eld Harris, Houston; Hardy Denham, Newton.
Subscription \$3.00 a year payable in advance.
Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.
Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.
The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association and the Evangelical Press Association.

NEWEST BOOKS

WHEN YOU PRAY by Harold Lindsay (Baker, paper, 192 pp., \$2.95)

A careful study of prayer as it is revealed in the Bible. Deals with Presuppositions, Kinds, Laws, Problems, Hindrances and the Power of Prayer, and includes a chapter of illustrations of answers which show how prayer work. The author believes that Christians have a prayer hearing and prayer answering God.

THE SHADOW OF THE BROAD BRIM by Richard Ellsworth Day (Baker, paper, \$3.95, 236 pp.) First published more than 40 years ago, this reprint of a renowned biography of C. H. Spurgeon marks the centenary of the unforgettable 19th-century preacher's birth.

TALK TO ME! by Charlie W. Shedd (Fleming H. Revell, paper, \$1.50, 93 pp.) The author of *Letters to Karen and Letter to Philip* now writes to troubled wives who yearn for deeper communication with their husbands but who cannot seem to achieve it.

RELEASE FROM FEAR AND ANXIETY by Cecil Osborne (Word Books, \$3.95, 289 pp.) Fear and anxiety have become the daily companions of twentieth-century man. Overcoming excessive fear and anxiety releases psychic energy for productive purposes. This new book gives insights into how you can turn anxiety and fear into the benevolent gifts intended by the Creator.

SINGLE AND HUMAN by Ada Lum (InterVarsity, 81 pp., \$1.95) A study from the perspective of a single woman, Miss Lum has much to offer to singles as well as to couples who want to be more sensitive to singles. The author

lives in Singapore and is a staff member with International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

A SONG FOR LOVERS by S. Craig Glickman, with foreword by Howard Hendricks (InterVarsity, paper, 188 pp., \$3.95) Includes both a new paraphrase and a new translation of The Song of Solomon.

LOVE YOURSELF by Walter Trobisch (InterVarsity, paper, \$1.50, 54 pp.) Self-love, self-rejection, the joy of living, the depths of depression — these are themes discussed in this personal and practical book.

GO FREE! by Robert M. Horn (InterVarsity, paper, \$2.25, 128 pp.) This book faces the problem of guilt and its consequences. Has God done something to resolve our conflict with him? Can guilty people hear the verdict "Go free"? Here is a readable introduction to the meaning of justification.

THE COST OF COMMITMENT by John White (InterVarsity, paper, \$1.95, 89 pp.) Does Jesus' teaching about the cross have meaning only when secret police pound doors at midnight? What does it mean to take up your cross, when little risk is involved in following Jesus? Dr. White in his book helps Christians count the cost of commitment.

PARADISE TO PRISON by John J. Davis (Baker, 362 pp., \$7.95) A study on the book of Genesis. The author is a professor at Grace Theological Seminary in Indiana. The book probably is planned as a text book but it is rich in its interpretation of the book section by section. The author believes in the Mos-

aic authorship and in creation as the source of mankind. This is a carefully prepared, fairly presented, discussion of the first book of the Bible.

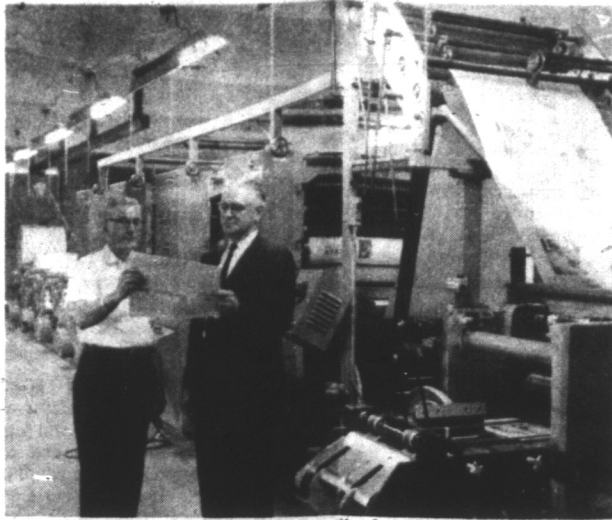
THE NATURE OF ANGELS by Alexander Whyte (Baker, paper, \$2.95, 221 pp.) Reprint of sermons by a famous Scottish preacher who died in 1921.

On The MORAL SCENE...

TV VIOLENCE AND THE ALMIGHTY BUCK — There is one motivation for TV producers and writers and networks to put violence in shows, and for sponsors to pay for them. The motivation is the almighty buck. . . . There is one motivation that can reduce violence on television — the almighty buck. Two avenues can effectively communicate public disapproval of TV violence. . . . The first is to refuse to support companies which sponsor the programs. . . . The other approach is to oppose renewal of licenses of stations which carry excessive violence. . . . The National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, chaired by Milton Eisenhower stated: "Television enters powerfully into the learning process of children and teaches them a set of moral and social values about violence which are inconsistent with the standards of civilized society. . . . children can and do learn aggressive behavior from what they see in a film or on a TV screen." . . . The average American child will view the killing of more than 13,000 persons on television from the time he is 5 until he is 15. (Chicago Tribune, Jack Mabley, July 4, 1976)



Meeting with other members of the Executive Committee, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, mid-1950's. Back row, l to r: N. F. Davis, C. C. Stacy, Perry C. Perkins, M. F. Rayburn, John Wade Landrum, Earl Kelly. Front row: Chester Quarles, W. L. Day, W. L. Meadows, C. A. Webb, and Joe Odle. At that time Odle was associate executive secretary.



Dr. Odle talks with the printer, the late Duke Thornton. Ben Cain is the present publisher of the Record. These were the first papers to come off a new press in 1962.



At the editor's desk — August 20, 1976

Denominational Leader And Editor



Getting ready to speak at William Carey College commencement, with another speaker, C. B. Hamlet, III, and President Ralph Noonkester.



Gathering with SBC editors September 20, 1972, for a conference at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Dr. Odle is at far right, back row. Don McGregor, then editor in California, and next editor of the Record, is fifth from the left, back row.



At the press table Dr. Odle takes a picture of an SBC speaker. At his right is Bill Sellers.



Displaying one of his antique typewriters. . . .



Joe Odle, president of the Southern Baptist Press Association in 1971, passes the gavel to James Duncan, left, editor, Washington, D. C. With them are Al Shackleford, editor, Indiana, and L. H. Moore, editor, Ohio.



In his library, Dr. Odle welcomes furloughing missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. John Smith of Indonesia.



Visiting the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. He made four trips to the Holy Land.

Communications Career Began Early

(Continued from page 3)

tered Mississippi College; then the next summer, on the staff at Ridgecrest, he surrendered to preach. He delivered his first sermon in the Gulfport pulpit in September 1953.

In 1954 Joe Thomas worked as the Home Mission Board's first summer missionary to Montana. When suddenly in November of his junior year he became ill, doctors in New Orleans told his parents that he had Hodgkins disease. A tragic twelve weeks later, he died at the age of 20, just as the sun rose over the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday morning, January 31, 1955. Through a scholarship for young ministers at Mississippi College, established by family and friends, his life has continued to bless others. The chapel at Calvary Baptist Church, Helena, Montana, is called the Joe Thomas Odle Memorial Chapel.

Dr. Odle preached the commencement sermon for Joe Thomas' class at Mississippi College, the Class of 1956.

After graduation from Mississippi College, Sarah went to Memphis to teach. There she met Roland Maddox of Clarksdale, whom she married. He is now president of Wallace Johnson Enterprises in Memphis. Both are active at Bellevue Church, Memphis, where she is WMU president, and he is a deacon. They have two children, Melanie, 12, and Alan, 10.

Early in 1956 Dr. Chester Quarles, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, asked Dr. Odle if he would become associate to the executive secretary, with responsibilities in evangelism and stewardship. After much consultation with "the man who held the keys," he felt that the Lord was leading in this, and so he accepted effective July 1, 1956. Now he says of the three years that followed, "Working with Dr. Chester Quarles was one of the great experiences of my life. He was a great soul and an outstanding leader. He loved people and people loved him. Every person he knew considered him a personal friend."

Through the years, since he became editor, and before, Dr. Odle has been active in denominational affairs. He was president of the Southern Baptist Press Association in 1971. He has served on the Committee of Committees of the SBC, and as vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He has been a member of the Baptist Joint Affairs Committee and a member of the Annuity Board, SBC.

Mississippi College chose him as recipient of one of the Service to Humanity Awards given in their sesquicentennial year. He has been listed in Who's Who in America since 1968, and in Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and in Who's Who in Religion.

What has he enjoyed most in his years as editor? "The opportunity to have an overview of the whole operation of Southern Baptists in the churches and in the denomination. The opportunity to know personally every Southern Baptist Convention leader, and state Baptist leader. These contacts are one of the greatest compensations of the work. Knowing the leaders and knowing and understanding their goals, you are grateful to God for letting you be part of such a program."

What does he plan to do, now that he is retiring? Through the

years as editor, he has missed very few Sundays preaching at some church. He has led many revivals and led or participated in many Bible conferences. He plans to continue these, or perhaps even to return to the pastorate, if the Lord should lead.

"I hope to travel some," he says. "I might even do some additional seminary study."

He and Mabel live at 1322 Robert Drive in Jackson, and have been members of First Baptist Church, Jackson since 1956.

"I will set no hard schedule," he says, "but hope to do a lot of things with Mabel." He's already been dusting off his golf clubs. He hopes to spend more time with his grandchildren.

One major part of his time will be spent at the typewriter, for he has ideas for several new books already worked out in his mind. He would like to write on Revelation, on the Bible plan of church finance, and on Baptist distinctives. Already there are two books on the local church in manuscript form. Besides his Church Member's Handbook, Dr. Odle has had three other books published by Broadman: Is Christ Coming Soon?; Why I Am a Baptist; and The Coming of the King. Also he is author of a book of sermons, "It's a Great Life — Don't Miss It" published by E. J. Daniels and Christ for the World Publishers. (A special offer on purchase of these books is made in ad on this page)

"I have had a lot of joy and happiness," he says. "The Lord has been good to me. I have had happy pastorates. It has been a joy to be editor. God has given one of the finest staffs to be found anywhere."

"Mabel has been my strength, with her dedication, prayer life, love for the Lord, and the church. My ministry has been her ministry and we've shared everything through the years. I have leaned on her always."

"I see mistakes I have made and wish I could do some things over again, but that can't be. Some of the major moves and decisions were hard to make, but once made, I feel sure they were of the Lord."

"I have no fear for the future, for as God has led in the past, I know He will lead in years ahead."

Staff Salary Survey Available

By Dr. Clifton Perkins
Director, Church-Minister
Relations Department

The "Church Staff Salary Survey" formulated by a committee composed of lay members of the Mississippi Convention Board, is now available to lay leaders of the churches of the convention. Copies can be secured by writing to the Department of Church-Minister Relations, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.

The study will be helpful to deacons, finance committees, and others responsible for determining employee compensation. Gene Triggs, Committee Chairman, points out that there is still time to get copies of the booklet before the 1977 church budget is finalized.

The survey is based on responses from 742 churches of the convention. It is comprehensive both in its revelation of what churches actually are doing in the area of compensation of their workers, and what they need to be doing in the light of present day conditions. Studies are presented

of churches in the light membership size categories, ranging from the smallest with a resident membership of from 1 - 100, up to the largest with a resident membership of 2001 and more. Tables reveal what churches actually are doing, and guidelines are offered to help them determine whether the support they are giving is adequate.

The study not only includes salaries but also housing, utilities, insurance, retirement, automobile expense and convention expense.

The committee emphasizes the fact that the study is not an effort to tell churches what they have to do. The report simply offers facts and figures which will help churches to do self evaluation.

Dr. Earl Kelly, Executive Secretary - Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, commends the booklet to each church Personnel and Budget Planning Committee for their prayerful study. He says, "The facts of the study will give intelligent guidance."

Foreign Board Projects Building

RICHMOND (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has announced plans to add a new wing to the headquarters building located here. Anticipated cost of the addition will be between \$1,250,000 and \$1.5 million, according to board officials.

A building committee, composed of members of the Foreign Mission Board, is working with a local architectural firm on the building plans which are expected to be completed shortly after the end of the year. Construction is projected to start in 1977 with completion of the new wing anticipated for early 1978.

The new addition will be the culmination of a planning process which started in 1972 with an initial allocation of \$250,000. Due to the economic downturn and escalating building costs, additional allocations were delayed until this year.

Two appropriations of \$500,000 each were approved by the board in April and July, bringing the total appropriated to date for the building to \$1,250,000. Appropriations for the new construction are from current operating funds.

The last addition to the present headquarters building was in 1965. The original structure was built in 1958. The new wing will provide space for administrative offices, conference rooms and future expansion.

Bible-Preaching Session Sets Record

GLORIETA, N. M. — Glorieta Baptist Conference Center officials report a record registration total of 2,575 persons for the Bible-Predaching Conference, the eighth of 14 weeklong summer conferences held here.

Other weeks that have attracted large audiences were the

back-to-back Sunday School Leadership Conferences, which over 4,500 persons attended during the two-week period; the Church Training Youth Conference, which attracted 2,200 young people; and the Church Music Leadership Conference, for which 1,948 church musicians registered.

AUTOGRAPHED COMES

Books By

DR. JOE T. ODLE

Retiring Editor, The Baptist Record

It's A Great Life; Don't Miss It — \$3.95

Is Christ Coming Soon? — \$2.50

The Coming of The King (paper) — \$1.95

Why I Am A Baptist — \$3.95

Church Member's Handbook (paper) — \$1.40

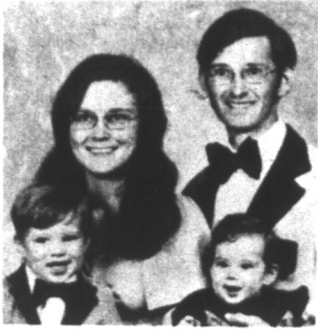
All 5 postpaid — \$12.00

For less than all, add 50¢ for postage and packing.

Available at The Baptist Record Office or order from:

Dr. Joe T. Odle
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, Ms. 39205

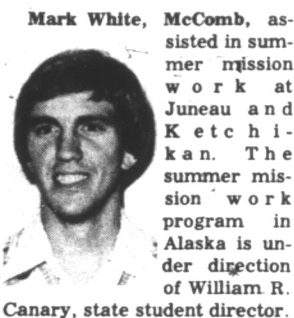
Names In The News



Jonathan and Sharon Norris of Norris Music Ministries, Pensacola, Fla., will be in concert at Unity Church, Pascagoula, September 8 at 7 p.m. Norris Music Ministries travel with their own vocal master sound system, electric piano, Hammond organ, and ARP string ensemble synthesizer, in addition to a variety of other instruments. Rev. Nolan Mapp is pastor at Unity. Danny Von Kanel is minister of music and youth.

W. Otis Seal on August 8 completed his 19th year and began his 20th year as pastor of Calvary Church, Meridian.

Miss Jan Cossitt, activities director of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has been notified of her selection as an Outstanding Young Woman of 1976. Miss Cossitt, a native of Cotton Plant, Mississippi, is a graduate of Northeast Junior College, Booneville, and Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women), at Columbus. Young women who are recipients of the Outstanding Young Women award each year are recognized for their outstanding professional and personal achievements.



Mark White, McComb, assisted in summer mission work at Juneau and Ketchikan. The summer mission work program in Alaska is under direction of William R. Canary, state student director.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Dennis Hale, missionaries to Spain, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 581 Mansford Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30310).



Richard Baker was ordained to the gospel ministry by Pioneer Church, Woodville, on July 18, at the request of Spring Hill Church, Knoxville, Ms. In the picture at left, Mr. Baker receives his ordination certificate from the Rev. Houston Anglin, pastor of Pioneer Church. In the picture on the right Mr. Baker is shown with his wife, Eloise, and daughter, Andrea.

Miss Mary Ann Cooper, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Percy M. Cooper of Trinity Church, Carthage, is associate Baptist Student Union director at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She is a graduate of Mississippi College with a B.A. in religious education and M.A. in English. She will be working with freshmen at the University, and will be in charge of the Bible study and music.

Beth Wilson, Petal, was one of six participants in the Youth Bible Drill competition held during Church Training Leadership Week at Golieta. Five other youth represented their various state Baptist conventions.

Chunky has called Kent Crider as full time minister of music and youth. He and his wife, Jerry Susan, moved to Chunky from Bassfield Church. He is from Lumberton, and is a graduate of Clarke College. He plans to continue his education at the William Carey College branch on Clarke campus. Jerry Susan is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Jerry F. Zgarba of Brooksville Church. Rev. Curtis L. Guess is pastor of the Chunky Church.

Talitha Edwards, Grenada, Miss., recently spoke on the topic "Where Now, America?" during the Youth Speakers Tournament at Golieta Baptist Conference Center.

Rex Yancey has resigned the pastorate of Jayess Church in Lawrence County to re-enter full-time evangelism. A graduate of Blue Mountain College, and NOBTS, he has eight years pastoral experience and 2 years experience in full-time evangelism. He is married and has two children. He can be contacted at 205 Nanney Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801 (phone is 1-601-844-7773).

Thomas C. (Tom) Mercier has assumed the duties of minister of music at Immanuel Church in Cleveland. He goes to Immanuel from Woodl and Hills Church in Jackson. Native of McComb, he graduated from Baylor University with a BA in music. After serving in several churches, he entered Southwestern Seminary where he graduated with a Master of Church music degree.



Left to right: Mrs. W. D. (Anne) McWilliams of Clinton; Mrs. Yvonne Lehman, novelist, Black Mountain, N. C.; Miss Judith Markham, editor, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Sherwood Wirt, Minneapolis, Minnesota, retired editor of Decision magazine, published by the Billy Graham Association; Mrs. Carolyn Ellis, Greenwood; Miss Betty Smith of Jackson; Miss Betty Pope (sister of Bradley Pope of Clinton), formerly of Brookhaven, now of Denton, Texas; and Mrs. Virginia Muir, Wheaton, Illinois, editor, Tyndale Publishing House.

Two From State Receive Awards In Christian Writing

Two Mississippians received awards for excellence in Christian writing, during the first annual Western North Carolina Christian Writers' Conference held recently at Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, North Carolina. Anne Washburn McWilliams of Clinton, editorial associate for the Baptist Record, and Betty Smith of Jackson, secretary in the Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, received two of the three Honorable Mentions that were given. Anne Rhodes Johnson of Phoenix, Arizona received the third. Jack Hunter of Baltimore, Maryland was chosen for the first Place A. C. Dixon Award.

Five Mississippians were among the 107 attending the writers' conference. Others in addition to Mrs. McWilliams and Miss Smith were Mrs. Carolyn Ellis, Greenwood; Miss Betty Pope, formerly of Brookhaven, now living in Denton, Texas; Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, Crystal Springs. Miss Pope is the sister of Bradley Pope of Clinton. Mrs. Yvonne Lehman, novelist, of Black Mountain, North Carolina, was director of the conference, and Dr. Sherwood Wirt, Minneapolis, Minn., author, and recently retired editor of DECISION magazine, was master of ceremonies. Other faculty members included: Bob Terrell, author, columnist and associate editor, Asheville, North Carolina CITIZEN-TIMES; Norman Rohrer, director, Christian Writers Guild, LaCanada, California; W. J. Falls, editor, General Reli-

gious Books, Broadman Press, Nashville; Judith Markham, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Virginia Muir, Tyndale House, Wheaton, Illinois; Howard Richardson, playwright, New York; Charlene Myhre, Assistant Editor, DECISION Magazine, Minneapolis.

Attention: Students, Parents And Pastors WANTED: 1000 Students For Complimentary Luncheon

Many of your finest young people will be attending Mississippi State University at Starkville this fall. Meadowview Baptist Church in Starkville cares about the youth of today and attempts to provide them with strength to match their problems. We are concerned about the social and spiritual needs of youth.

We are planning a delicious complimentary luncheon for all the University young people attending our church service on Sunday morning, September 12. We want to honor the University Baptist Youth on this date with a fellowship lunch.

Pastors and Parents: Would you encourage your students coming to MSU to be our guests and to be active in a Southern Baptist Church while pursuing a higher education here.

Yours for Outreach,
Wilburn Matthews, Pastor
Meadowview Baptist Church
Linden Circle
Starkville, Ms. 39750

AJLOUN, Jordan — About 80 women gathered here recently for the annual meeting of the Jordan Baptist Women's Union. Every Baptist church of Jordan was represented and several visitors, temporarily displaced from Lebanon, also attended the meeting at Ajloun Baptist Church.

J. H. Burrell Is Retiring From Ministry

J. H. Burrell is retiring from fulltime pastorate, after 37 years in the ministry.

The last nine years and nine months were spent as pastor of Skene Church, Skene, in Bolivar County. He has led the church to erect a new parsonage and activities building, and in renovating brickwork, and air conditioning the educational building. A new Hammond organ, pew cushions and bus were purchased.

Among the churches he has pastored are Alexander Memorial in Washington County, Calvary, Beulah and Belzoni, Eastside in Humphreys County.

Beulah and Eastside were organized by Mr. Burrell. Eastside's property was purchased and the present plants were erected during an eleven year tenure as pastor.

Mr. Burrell has also served as moderator of Humphreys and Bolivar County Associations and has served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He now lives at 306 MacArthur Circle, Indianola. He is available for supply preaching and revivals (phone 887-4102).

Quite a bit of indigestion is caused by people having to eat their own words.

Devotional

He Has Led His People Well

By Paul Vandercook
Text: Deuteronomy 34

A long and glowing career was coming to an end. Moses had led his people well. When they needed organization he placed them in groups with capable leaders. When they needed comforting he spoke to them in soft voices of cheer. When they needed chastising he spared them not.

Now all that is at an end. God has sent Moses into the mountain to see the land where he will not go. We can imagine as Moses stands atop Mount Nebo that he has mixed emotions.

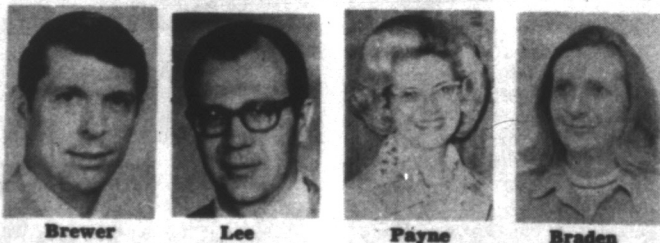
There is much in his life in which he can glory and there are mistakes for which he is repentant. There were glorious achievements and high moments of honor. Still there are many things that he will never see accomplished in the lives of the people of Israel.

So it is with any man. Regardless of one's personal achievements, the accomplishments of a people span the careers of many men. The people mourned for a time but still they went on. The Lord raised up another leader for them, a man of his own choosing.

We Mississippi Baptists are in the midst of such a time right now. With this issue of the Baptist Record the career of its editor, Dr. Joe Odle, reaches its closing days. For nearly two decades he has guided the voice of Baptists in Mississippi and has led it to be among the most respected publications of any state convention.

Dr. Odle has been a friend of all of us. He has comforted us and chided us through his editorials. His foresight and generosity have helped many young men, this writer included, through a scholarship fund at Mississippi College. His zeal for missions has kept us reminded of the needs of the world for the Gospel.

The editorial in the Baptist Record of May 20, 1976, concludes with a worthy thought in Dr. Odle's own words. "...we realize anew that God prepares His man, for each hour that arises in His kingdom work. Each person whom God chooses, serves his day, and then God has ready another man to take his place. We have no fears of the future, when we know that God is in command."



Brewer

Lee

Payne

Braden

New Appointments At MC

Two full-time faculty members have moved into key administrative positions at Mississippi College following approval of the college's Board of Trustees. The new appointments became effective with the start of the new fiscal year.

Dr. James Brewer, an assistant professor of education in the Division of Education and Psychol-

ogy, has assumed a position as assistant to the dean of the Graduate School.

Dr. Gerald Lee, assistant professor of economics and head of the general business Department, has been named assistant dean of the School of Business and Public Administration.

In addition to these two appointments, Mrs. Mary Libby Payne, interim dean of the School of Law this past year, will continue with the Law School in the capacity as assistant dean. She will be working closely with Dean Arthur Weeks.

Mrs. Carrie Jo Braden, assistant professor of nursing, has been named assistant to the dean of the School of Nursing.

Other administrative newcomers announced earlier by the college included Dr. Ralph Atkinson, vice-president for institutional advancement, and Dr. William B. (Bert) Thompson, chairman of the Division of Education and Psychology and professor of education.

ABOMEY, Benin—Eight young men were baptized here recently, climaxing more than a year of mission work and witnessing. Baptized by Southern Baptist Missionary Dutton A. Bonnell Jr., the young men were immersed in a simple concrete baptistery built only a week before.



MC Coeds On Garaywa Staff

These Mississippi College coeds are serving as members of the staff at Camp Garaywa in Clinton this summer as the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union provides camping opportunities for Girls Auxiliary and Aetern members from throughout the state. Front row, left to right, are Beverly Gilder, Hattiesburg; Alisa Johnston, McComb; and Robin McKee, Jackson. Back row, left to right, are Cindy Myrick, Heidelberg; Lucy Redd, Natchez; Merinell Stringer, Gulfport; and Diana Williams, Water Valley. The staffers will all be returning to Mississippi College for the fall semester which opens on Aug. 29.

Teachers...

*we think
you're important at
Baptist Book Stores!*

We're ready to help you "get ready" to teach. We have the latest teaching materials available. The "Getting Ready Series" is an orientation course for new teachers or a refresher course for experienced ones.

There is a GETTING READY TO TEACH book for each age group teacher in the Sunday School.

You'll find these helps and others in the new Baptist Book Store Catalog. Upon request we will send you a Catalog. Mail to the nearest Baptist Book Store.



Please send a Baptist Book Store Catalog to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

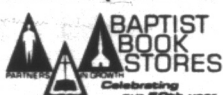
Teachers...

*we think
you're important at
Baptist Book Stores!*

We're ready to help you "get ready" to teach. We have the latest teaching materials available. The "Getting Ready Series" is an orientation course for new teachers or a refresher course for experienced ones.

There is a GETTING READY TO TEACH book for each age group teacher in the Sunday School.

You'll find these helps and others in the new Baptist Book Store Catalog. Upon request we will send you a Catalog. Mail to the nearest Baptist Book Store.



Please send a Baptist Book Store Catalog to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Teachers...

*we think
you're important at
Baptist Book Stores!*

We're ready to help you "get ready" to teach. We have the latest teaching materials available. The "Getting Ready Series" is an orientation course for new teachers or a refresher course for experienced ones.

There is a GETTING READY TO TEACH book for each age group teacher in the Sunday School.

You'll find these helps and others in the new Baptist Book Store Catalog. Upon request we will send you a Catalog. Mail to the nearest Baptist Book Store.



Please send a Baptist Book Store Catalog to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

SUPERIOR COACH SALES

Of
Kosciusko
Church Buses
Activity Buses
Transit Buses
CALL BOB HARDISON, JR.
OR
RALPH PEE
(601) 289-1231 Ext. 226

AFRAID OF GOING DEAF?

Jackson, Miss.—An offer of special interest to those who hear but don't understand words has been announced by Capital Hearing Aid Center. A model of the smallest aid of its kind will be offered to anyone answering this advertisement. Write today to see how tiny hearing help can be. It actually weighs less than one-third ounce and all in the ear...no tubes or cords. Thousands have already been helped. Write today to Capital Hearing Aid Center, 708 East Fortification St., Jackson, MS 39201.

DELUXE HOLY LAND TOUR, Nov. 18-27. Only \$999 roundtrip from New York, including all expenses, 747 TWA flights (no charters) fine hotels, all meals, everything. Also 2 days choice of Rome or Athens. Escorted from Jackson by Clyde Bryan. For Brochure—Bryan Tours, Inc., P. O. Box 8221, Jackson, Ms. 39216

Friends are invited to share with

John T. and Henry S. Carter

and their families in honoring their parents

DR. JOHN F. AND MATTIE GEORGE CARTER

on the sixtieth anniversary

of their marriage

September 4, 1976—3:00-5:00 p.m.

Home of Mrs. L. G. Kee, 601 W. Church Street, Newton

No Gifts

What If The Worst Comes?

By Bill Duncan

Habakkuk 1:2-5, 12-13; 2:1-4; 3:17-19

This is the beginning of a new unit of lessons with the title, "Facing the Future With Hope."



These lessons are based upon the writings of prophets before and after the fall of Judah. If Judah could cope with conditions that created uncertainty and despair, then we who live today can learn from them. Our times of turbulence and distress have caused us to question the validity of our faith in God. We all need reassurance that no possible combination of circumstances can prove too much for God.

Habakkuk lived and prophesied during the declining years of Judah. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, had already fallen in 722 B.C. to the Assyrians. However, the people of Judah had believed from the defeat of Sennacherib that they would continue to triumph and Jerusalem would never be destroyed. Yet, in the nation, evil continued unabated and unpunished. Habakkuk could not understand how God could conceive of allowing Judah to go on without punishment. How could

God allow all of the injustice, immorality, and irreligious activity that was so frequently practiced in the nation of Judah to escape his just wrath?

Do you ever complain to God? Habakkuk did and he asked, "How long shall I cry for help?" The toleration of evil was inconsistent with the prophets' understanding of the nature of God and his purpose for the nation. Therefore, the complaint was that God should hear those that call upon him and visit in judgment those who oppose him and his purposes. If God heard his prayer, He pays no attention.

Then the prophet asked a very old and yet a current question. "How could wrongdoing be allowed to affect the lives of the covenant people?" How can a just God use a heathen nation to punish a better nation? It was obvious to Habakkuk that Judah could not escape the divine wrath, but he could not conceive of God using a heathen nation to fulfill his own purposes.

The answer to the complaint of God is that God is not under obligation to any one nation or people to fulfill his purposes. God takes the full responsibility for rousing the Chaldeans against the nation of Judah. The Chaldeans are only instruments in the hand of God.

The final answer that the prophet received to all his ques-

tions was "the just shall live by his faith." The righteous or just are not those of Judah only; they are all the righteous who suffer oppression. Through steadfastness and fidelity to the revealed will of God, the righteous will live. Faith is more than the concept of righteous conduct or of a life which is faithful to the will of God. It is implicit that one have a righteous conduct and the idea of trusting or putting trust in God is added.

What if the worst comes? The Christian will not change, he will be faithful. "The man of faith may be troubled by eternal circumstances, but those factors never can control his destiny. The person who is faithful will work through perplexity to trust and cope with life's injustices and tragedies.

Habakkuk received a vision of what was going to happen to Judah and he was faithful. The scene brought fear and sorrow to his heart. His response was yet "I will rejoice . . . I will joy." Habakkuk had great cause to rejoice because he had discovered the mainstream of God's will. He knew what was going to happen and he did not have any doubt but that God was going to win.

No matter what may be the consequences to Judah — though the crops be destroyed and the cattle lost — the prophet will rejoice in the Lord. He will rejoice in him who is the God of his salvation.



1st, Tupelo, To Build Family Life Center

The Building Committee and members of Tupelo, First Church administrative force broke ground August 1, for a Family Life and Recreation Center, to be ready for occupancy in nine months. The \$400,000 structure is being built by The Pryor Construction Company of West Point. Architects are The Staub-Johnson Firm of Tupelo. Left to right: Jim Johnson, Mrs. Robert Baggett, Mrs. Stanley Womack, Will Denton, Loyce Green, the

Rev. Bill Nimmons, pastor Elton Whitley, Dr. Doug Bain, assistant pastor and youth director, George Martin, minister of music and Ron Blackwell, chairman of deacons. Not pictured are Leland Cook, Chairman of the Building Committee; Dr. Sammy Simpson, a committee member who is now in Ecuador in foreign mission service; and Bill Cridler, education director.

Beyond the Ironing Board

Thank You, Dr. Odle!

In everyone's life there are red letter days and there are Red Letter Days and there are RED LETTER DAYS.

In my life February 5 will always be a RED LETTER DAY.

That was the day, in 1970, when Dr. Joe Odle took a calculated risk in presenting, on the editorial page, no less, a regular feature by a woman, no less, known only by her kinfolks and church members, no more, and I began to examine life more closely from the business side of the ironing board as it affected the world beyond it. A three months' trial run resulted in a letter from him telling of the column's having been placed on an indefinitely permanent basis, where it stayed until it was stored away for a while last year.

When we began he gave me only one limit: no poetry. I am free to tackle any subject I dare in prose, but not in poetry. On only two sentences during all these years have I known him to use his editor's blue pencil, and both of these were fine with me.

I could not begin to tell you the joy that has been added to my life because of all the doors that have opened to me in the area of writing since that February 5. At some point in these years I wrote Dr. Odle to thank him for all the chillbumps that have been mine because of his use of the column. Why say so much about myself in a column designed to honor a retiring editor? So that I can say to you what a great editor he is, how his deeply sensitive perception as a human being expresses itself in his dealing with people who work for him, allowing them freedom of thought and expression, feeling no need to edit their words into his words.

For those of us who have watched Dr. Odle in his roles as pastor, husband, father, friend, and son, we have seen that the Christian principles which he writes about and which he writes by are also the ones that he lives by. Perhaps second to laying down one's life for his friend is that one live his life worthy of his friend's emulating it. For this I'm grateful, Dr. Odle. And, Mrs. Odle.

NEW AND USED BUSES

Complete Stock from 12 to 84 Passengers

BUS SUPPLY CO., INC.

Hwy. 96 E.—P.O. Box 508
McCOMB, MS 39601

Phones: Office (601) 684-2900
Home (601) 684-5874 or 684-6876

Revival Dates

BRAZIL (Tallahatchie): August 29 - September 3; Jimmy Martin, pastor of First Church, Tutwiler, evangelist; Lee Ferrell, pastor, song leader; Sunday services at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; services during the week at 7:30 p.m.

North Greenwood Baptist Church Bus For Sale - 1965 Ford 700 V8 - 60 Passenger. Both Body and Motor Completely Re-worked. Excellent Condition - Call Lewis Jenkins at 453-8365.

Homecoming Oakdale Baptist Church

Mobile, Alabama

DATE: September 26, 1976

If you were ever a member of Oakdale you are invited for this special occasion. If you were a member of Oakdale during the years 1907 thru 1927, YOU are the SPECIAL INVITED GUESTS FOR THIS OCCASION.

Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship: 10:50 A.M.

Dr. Rodney Taylor, pastor, will bring the morning message.

REVIVAL RESULTS.

Rocky Hill near Brookhaven: August 1-6; Rev. Carl Wayne Burns of Jackson, evangelist; Buck Rester and his Christian Shepherds, in charge of songs and music; Rev. Milfred Malone, pastor; attendance good; church filled to capacity every night; many rededications; two additions since the revival. (Mrs. D. T. Hutson, church clerk, reports, "For some years Rocky Hill has been dead, but thanks to the few members and a faithful pastor we live again! Since March, 1976 we have been working hard to build our church again.")

BAXTERVILLE (Lamar): August 1-6; James N. Gill, evangelist; Bobby Ready, singer; 32 total decisions; eight professions of faith; three additions by letter; two surrendering for full-time service; 19 rededications; Bob Goolsby, pastor.

Mashville (Noxubee): August 1-6; Curtis Reese, pastor, Yockanookany Church, Attala County, evangelist; Gerald McCleskey, minister of music and youth, Calvary, Starkville, music evangelist; John A. Williams, pastor; one profession of faith; six rededication; one surrendering for full-time Christian service.

OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder. "Internationally known specialists" NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO. Box 305-C - Greenwood Miss. 38930

CHURCH BUSES

Mississippi Bus Sales, Inc.

HEADQUARTERS

FOR ALL TYPES OF

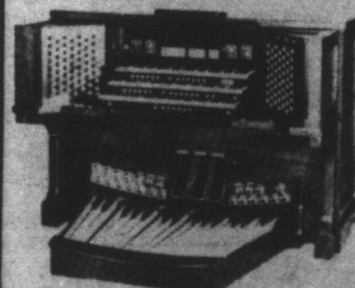
School & Church Furniture

• Complete stock of chairs, tables, desks and furnishings for Classroom, Library, Sunday School, Auditorium, Cafeteria and every School and Church use.

MISSISSIPPI School Supply Co. JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ALLEN ORGANS

The Ultimate for Church Music
See-Hear-Play
These Majestic Organs
Prices begin at \$3995



ROSEBERRY PIANO HOUSE

134 E. Front St., Hattiesburg, Ms 39401 (601) 585-0245

Free Delivery

Special Church Terms Available

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy these securities. The offering is made only by prospectus.

FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS ON VARIOUS CHURCHES

8%
1 to 4 1/2 YEARS

NEW HIGH INTEREST RATES

ON FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH

BONDS

8 1/2%
5 to 8 1/2 YEARS

INTEREST BASED ON

MATURITY OF BOND

9%
9 to 12 YEARS

9 1/2%
12 1/2 to 15 YEARS

Sunday School Lesson: International For September 5

Justification By Faith

By Wm. J. Fallis
Galatians 1:1 to 3:18

With this lesson we begin a thirteen-Sunday study of reconciliation, or man's new relationship with God made possible by Christ. It is one of the words Paul used to describe salvation. It starts with the idea that man is estranged from God in sin and pride. "To reconcile" means to bring together. In Christ's death



and resurrection God opened a way for man to be reconciled. We will be using passages from Galatians and Romans to examine the meaning and implications of reconciliation. Although this will be a study in theology, it will seek to relate Bible truth to the needs of average Christians. After all, understanding one's beliefs should result in a changed life.

The Law Cannot Save (Gal. 2:15-16)

Some early Jewish Christians argued that Gentiles who wanted to be Christians must also become Jews, that faith in Christ was not enough. A Gentile must also submit to circumcision and the law of Moses. Some of these people visited churches in Galatia and upset them considerably. Paul wrote this letter to the Galatians to reemphasize the centrality of faith in Christ.

These two verses appear at the end of Paul's explanation of his distinctive call as an apostle to the Gentiles. In Antioch he had challenged Peter to his face. Now he contrasts Jews with their rich religious heritage with pagan Gentiles and then adds immediately that both he and Peter knew that no one can be set right with God by obeying the law. Even devout Jews are saved "by the faith of Jesus Christ . . . and not by works of law."

Experience Shows Faith's Role (Gal. 3:1-5)

Here Paul turns to the Gentile Christians of Galatia. He had been indignant about the false accusations against himself and the Judaizers' distortion of the gospel. Now he frames his frustration and disappointment in six questions. The Greek word for "bewitch" suggests casting a spell. Had they kept their attention fixed on the vivid portrayal of the crucified Christ, as preached by Paul, they would not have yielded to the "evil eye" (TEV). He then demanded whether they received the Spirit by obeying the law or by faith. If they began their new life in the Spirit, why should they expect to complete it by a fleshly ritual? Verse 4 is clearer in the TEV: "Did all your experience mean nothing at all? Surely it meant something!" Then he asked whether God who gave them the

Spirit accomplished his miracles through their obedience to law or through their faith. Paul's questions were keen and inescapable. God Accepts All Men By Faith (Gal. 3:6-14)

Paul then illustrated his conviction that only faith can justify a person by referring to Abraham. The patriarch of the Hebrews was accepted by God as righteous because of his faith rather than his obedience to law. Thus, men of faith are sons of Abraham. Genesis 12:3 predicted that Gentiles would be made right with God by their faith. Just as Abraham was blessed because he believed in God, Gentile believers are also blessed.

With verse 10 Paul turned to his opponents. Quoting Deuteronomy 27:26, he declared that those who depended on the law for salvation were really under a curse, evidently because no one could obey all the law. Then he quoted Habakkuk 2:4 as proof that no one could be justified by obedience and ritual; only faith could do it. In verse 12 he quoted Leviticus 18:5 to show that "the Law has nothing to do with faith. It teaches that 'he who does these things shall live by them.'" (Weymouth). He measures life by what he does. But Paul saw the law as a curse and said that Christ had brought us out from under that curse. He cited Deuteronomy 21:23 as his scriptural authority.

Prayer Lift For Pastors: Aug. 29-Sept. 4

Rankin

August 29
Frank Smith, Mountain Creek
H. B. Nail, Oakdale
Malcolm Leach, Paul Truitt
Emerson Tedder, Pearson
J. Roy McComb, Pearl, First
August 30
Carl Nelson, Pelahatchie
Tom Jackson, Pine Crest
Harry Gipson, Providence
James Smith, Puckett
A. F. Whitehead, Rehobeth
August 31
Paul Williamson, Richland
J. P. Everett, Robinhood
William Caten, Rock Bluff
Robert Jones, Rock Hill
Charles Jones, Star
September 1
Mike Willoughby, Sunshine
T. O. Thrash, Thorn Hill
Vance Dyess, Trinity
J. A. McCain, Union

Riverside

Otis Goodbread, Beres
September 2
John Conn, Cherry Street
Lucius Marion, Clarksdale, First
O. W. Wheeler, Dundee
Eric Madison, Farrell
Clarke Criddle, Green River
September 3
Gerald Castillo, Jonestown
Richard Smith, Lula
Jessie Pruitt, Lu Rand
Paul Harwood, Lyon
Glenn Sullivan, Oakhurst
September 4
H. V. Hardin, Rena Lara
Louis Barner, Riverside
Pat Nowell, Tunica
Scott
James Edwards, Bethlehem
T. W. Henderson, Branch



Renewal Evangelism Conference Theme Is "Call Of God's Silver Trumpets"

ATLANTA, Ga. — The fifth National Renewal Evangelism Conference, sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Brotherhood Commission, will be held Oct. 25-31, 1976 at the Georgia Baptist Assembly, Toccoa, Ga.

Theme of the conference is "Hear the Call of God's Silver Trumpets, Numbers 10:1-10."

"The conference is a time for a gathering of the silver trumpets that testimonies, gifts, ministries and life messages might be heard," said conference coordinator, Reid Hardin of the HMB, "to the end that the call of the trumpets might be sharpened and amplified 'to the ends of the world.'"

Program resource persons include: Laddie Adams, Brotherhood director, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; Lewis A. Drummond, Billy Graham chair of Evangelism, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Quinn Pugh, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bel Air, Md.; Calvin Cantrell, associate director of evangelism, Louisiana Baptist Convention; plus national associates in renewal evangelism.

In large and small groups, participants will be involved in rela-

tional Bible study, discovery of spiritual gifts, personal family discipleship, renewal weekend leadership, witness training, community fellowship, inspirational messages and music. Special conferences include youth and children's leadership.

Joe Ray Land, associational director of missions, Pittsburg Baptist Association, McAlester, Okla., and R. Allan Pollock, associational director of missions, Southeastern Baptist Association, Memphis, Ind., will conduct a special inter-



Sunflower Gives Reception For New Missionaries

The Rev. and Mrs. Mike Murphy, newly appointed missionaries to Guatemala, were honored recently with a surprise "going-away" reception given by members of Sunflower Church. Murphy has been pastor at Sunflower for three years. The church presented love gifts of money and a friendship quilt, following a "This Is Your Life" program.

A watercolor painting of the church, by Mrs. Joe Abrams, was given to the Murphys, who with their two young daughters, Julie and Lori, will spend the next 1½ years in orientation and language school in Georgia and Costa Rica. In December, 1977, they will move to Guatemala, to begin mission service there.

The program at the reception, taped and given to the pastor, included testimonies of some of the shut-ins who had appreciated Mr. Murphy's bringing taped sermons each Monday to their homes.

est conference for associational directors of missions and chairmen of evangelism.

For registration information, write: Reid Hardin, Renewal Evangelism, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

Pine Crest To Dedicate Building

Pine Crest Church, Rankin County, will dedicate their new building in a special ceremony Sunday afternoon, August 29, at 2 o'clock. Special music will be presented by John Speedling.

The church's revival will begin that Sunday at 11, and continue through September 3, with A. J. Pace of East Moss Point Church as evangelist and John Speedling of McDowell Road Church, Jackson, in charge of the music.

Dinner will be served on the ground at the church August 29, preceding the dedication service, according to the pastor, Tom Jackson. Services during the week will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The church is at Plantation Shores, Highway 49 South between Florence and Star.

A cold wouldn't be so annoying if it weren't for the advice of friends.

Gardner-Webb Names Williams New President

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)

Craven Edward Williams, vice president of Davidson (N.C.) College, has been named the ninth president of Gardner-Webb College here, succeeding E. Eugene Poston, who resigned in February to seek the nomination as a Democratic candidate for the U. S. House of Representatives.

Thomas J. McGraw, executive vice president and dean of the college, has served as acting president of the Baptist school in the interim.



Mission To Pennsylvania

This group of young people from First Baptist Church, Pontotoc and Ecru Church were involved in mission work for fourteen days in the Mars, Pennsylvania area. They are: front row, Anna McCullough, Suzie Rish, Tonia Browning, Gail Ashmore; Second row: Mrs. Wayne Kimbrough, sponsor, Lucy Bowen, Rosalie McCullough, Kevin Pitts, Dr. Wayne Kimbrough, director; Back row: Johnny Bowen, Cecelia Boyd, Keith Hale.



Mars Hill Achieves Merit Recognition

Mars Hill Church, Winston County, has achieved merit recognition in use of the Church Training Achievement Guide. The Church Training director, Greg Sisson, was presented the recognition certificate for the general Church Training program while each leader accepted the certificate for his age level. The Mississippi Church Training Department, Kermit King, director, has informed Mars Hill that only one other church in the state has used the Achievement Guide so extensively. Mars Hill also achieved merit recognition in its Vacation Bible School for this year and the pastor, Lawrence Palmer, is shown with the VBS certificate. Left to right: Mr. Sisson; Bernice Sisson, Adult Training leader; Pastor Palmer; Linda Fortune, children's leader; Helen Hyde, pre-school leader; and Claudia Stone, youth leader. (Not pictured, Molly Howard, children's leader.)

Artis Brewer Retires After Thirty Years

After having served in the pastorate for thirty years, the Rev. Artis Brewer, now in his third year at Park Haven Baptist Church, Laurel, resigned July 25, to take an early retirement from the full-time ministry, effective August 29.

Mr. Brewer has served churches in Jones, Jasper, Attala, Marion, Jeff Davis, and Grenada Counties, in Mississippi and in Marshall, Texas. At various times he was in the Public Relations Department at Clarke College; director of missions; associational moderator; and on many county and associational committees.

Much of his ministry has had to do with leading churches in the erection of church plants and pastoriums. He plans to continue his ministry by serving as interim pastor, and doing supply preaching.

Mr. Brewer is married to the former Cleo Adams, who has taught school in most of the counties where he was pastor.

The Brewers live in their home at Route 1, Moss, north of Laurel in the Sharon community. Other members of their family include Johnny and Becky Brewer with children John and Brad, and Barbara and Andy Edwards with their children, David and Holly.

Wagner Joins Faculty At Baptist College

Dr. Jimmy Wayne Wagner, Oxford, Miss., has joined the faculty at Southwest Baptist College, Billvar, Mo. Wagner, a native of Batesville, has accepted the position of assistant professor of psychology at Southwest.

He received the Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the University of Mississippi. His master's degree is in community counseling. He also earned the B.A. degree in Latin from Mississippi College.

He was assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Oxford, for five years and served as interim pastor there 18 months. He and his wife, Brenda, have one daughter, 28-month-old Carolyn.

Injured BSSB Employees Said To Be Improving

NASHVILLE (BP) — Three Southern Baptist Sunday School Board employees who received multiple injuries in a two-car collision Aug. 5 are all listed in fair condition and improving, according to a spokesman at Baptist Hospital here.

Wilbur Lamm and Tom Lee of the Sunday School department and Bill Junker of National Student Ministries at the board were injured when Junker's car was struck by a car driven by a 16-year-old Nashville girl as the men drove to work, she was only slightly injured.



SCRAPBOOK



Down By The Sea

(R. N. S. Photo)

It's good to spend some time each year
To rest down by the shining sea,
To scan large ships a far way off
And sailboats wafting with the lee.

It's peaceful to body and mind
To watch seagulls in graceful flight,
To hear the rhythm of the tides
And see patches of foamy white.

They show a glimpse of God's beauty
And remind us of his great love.
As we see waves upon waves roll
His grace upon grace pours down from above.

—Victoria Singley

Permanent Values

In all the alchemy of character
There are no ingredients
So powerful,
and so permanent,
as integrity,
constance,
compassion
and Christian faith.

—Hafford Berry

Loneliness

I sit upon a cliff so high,
Watching the waves roll to the shore.
It seems that sometime they would stop,
But somehow there's always more.

The sea tells me of its loneliness
And I tell it of mine,
But it does not feel an inward pain,
And for no one does it pine.

I envy you oh lashing waves,
You know no love at all
And you have no endless longing
From memories you recall.
Roll on, roll on oh whispering waves
And sing your mournful song.
Enchant me with your endless wonders
And take my loneliness along.

—Dwight D. Cranford

Why?

I climbed upon a hill one day
And then I looked up in the sky
And then I looked at God and man
And then I wondered
Why?

And then I walked into a grove
And looked at man with all his pride
And then I felt so worn and bleak
And mystified.

And then I knelt beside a rock
And looked at God and sought his help
And then I knew that I at last
Was in His palm.

—Brooks Sledge

"Only when logs are put in a
fire do they sing." —Jess Moody

Off The Record

In these days when several religious groups claim to be the only true church, the following incident is amusing. In Fresno, CA, a work crew showed up to move the Church of God to a new location. The men had all the wires and plumbing disconnected and the church jacked up for the move when the Rev. Doyle Zachary walked up and screamed, "Stop! This is the Church of Christ! The Church of God is across the Street!"

A Sunday school teacher asked her young class how Noah spent his time on the ark. As there was no response, she asked: "Do you suppose he did a lot of fishing?" "What!" said a 6-year-old boy. "With only two worms?" —HUGH PARK, Atlanta Journal.

The govt. was conducting a federal study of why prisoners try to escape. They say the government was offering to pay \$50,000 for such a study.

Some smart mouth wrote the federal agency a letter saying he had already made the study and found out the answer.

"They try to escape," he said "because they want to get out. Please mail me the check."

The physician told a patient: "The chances for your recovery from your serious illness have just been diagnosed as excellent." The patient said: "But I heard that nine out of 10 people who have this disease dies." The doctor then commented: "Well, that's true, but you're the 10th case I've seen — and the other nine passed away."

True Freedom

My heart grew heavy,
I felt just like clay—
I heard a voice whisper,
"Come unto me."

Now I've been cleansed
Of all of my sin;
At last I know
What it's like to be free.

Jesus, my Savior,
Did that for me.
—Mrs. W. B. Hilderbrand



First, Soso Burns Note

First Church, Soso burned a note on August 1, at 2 p.m., after paying money borrowed for reworking the auditorium, building a new and fully equipped education building, and acquiring a new pastor's home. Left to right, in the ceremony, are Oren Welch, Building Committee chairman; Herbert Kimmon, pastor; Reece Ishee, chairman of deacons; and Bill Hyatt, finance chairman. The note was burned at the beginning of summer revival. Old-fashioned clothing and dinner on the ground were also features of the day.

Pinelake Girls Hear Missionary From Thailand

Fourteen of twenty enrolled GA members of Pinelake Church were present for a tea honoring their mothers. The home mission program centered around the theme, "Happy Birthday, America."

Mrs. Charles Ray, missionary on furlough from Thailand, featured speaker, gave a slide presentation.

A model meeting was presented in skit form telling of the purpose of Girls in Action. Lisa Whitney was puppeteer. Karen White contributed a poem which she wrote, titled, "A Missionary Is..."

G. A. Director Judy Bushee welcomed the guests. Refreshments were served in the fellowship hall. Dr. Harold Kitchings is interim pastor.